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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

If the elections were held today, how would you vote on the initiative that proposes to amend Article 12 to allow any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Mike Anderson walks out a free man in a delayed imprisonment case. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Jason Derulo knows his recent hit is risque, but he's not worried about it. ➤ PAGE 21

Kagman school vandalized again

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Vandals struck the Kagman Elementary School a third time over the weekend, this time wreaking havoc on the school's cafeteria, according to principal Ruth Calvo.

"They have taken it too far because this time they are endangering our kids when they broke into the cafeteria and messed everything up pretty good," Calvo told *Saipan Tribune*.

Because of the vandalism, which involved the use of industrial cleaning materials, KagES students had no place to eat their lunches, Calvo said.

"Our children could not eat this morning, this afternoon, or tomorrow. This is how serious it has gotten," she added.

Calvo said the hazardous materials—Clorox, Pine Sol, wax, and other sanitation products—were dumped on the floor and tables of the cafeteria.

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House kills Article 12 initiative

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), left, gestures as he explains the intent of his initiative amending Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution, while Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), right, looks on during yesterday afternoon's session. By a vote of 14-2, Dela Cruz's initiative was defeated.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 14-2, the House of Representatives killed yesterday an initiative amending the NMI Constitution provision that restricts land ownership only to people of Northern Marianas descent.

The vote came a day after community members testified on the initiative—some in a dramatic way either by ripping apart or tossing aside a copy of the proposed Article 12 amendment in front of lawmakers.

» Dela Cruz: NMDs not given chance to decide on land ownership

Acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said his initiative's defeat means, among other things, that the House didn't give NMD voters a chance in November to decide for themselves whether to continue to subject their land to Article 12 for "at least 25 years" before that mandatory restriction could be removed.

"I was somewhat surprised, but it is what it is. I respect each member's decision in voting how they voted. I believe they felt the NMD voters shouldn't be

See INITIATIVE on Page 4

Inmate allegedly stabs visitor at DOC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An inmate serving a life sentence for kidnapping and attempted murder allegedly stabbed a female visitor with a toothbrush at the Department of Corrections in Susupe on Sunday afternoon.

Multiple sources disclosed that inmate Gerald Sablan attacked the female visitor inside DOC's visitation area and that the victim was injured and taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Lt. Jose Castro of DOC's Professional Standards Unit confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Sablan assaulted the female visitor with a toothbrush.

Castro said the victim was injured and was taken by medics to CHC.

"The issue is still under investigation both by the Department of Public Safety

See INMATE on Page 4

Snorkeling instructor drowns on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A snorkeling instructor drowned at the Pinatang Dive Site on Rota Monday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said yesterday that the victim is a Japanese male and that they could not release his name until the next of kin is notified.

Hurst said a doctor at the Rota Health Center pronounced the victim dead at 11:30am.

Hurst said DPS dispatch notified a Rota DPS Boating Safety officer of a distressed diver in the waters outside the Pinatang Dive Site.

As the officer was readying to launch the Zodiac rescue boat in the West Marina, another boat that had recovered the

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CUC inks six-year, $360M fuel contract with Mobil. PAGE 2
Saipan recruit receives boot camp top honor. PAGE 6

Local

CUC inks six-year, $360M fuel contract with Mobil

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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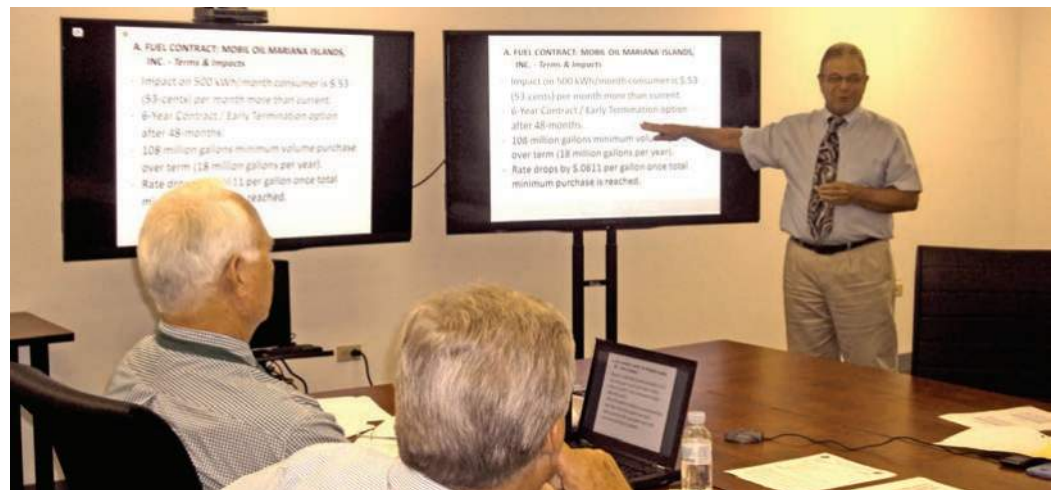
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has entered into a new agreement with its longtime fuel supplier, a decision that CUC management and its board said would not only ensure uninterrupted fuel supply for its power plants but would also retire all outstanding obligations to the company.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan confirmed yesterday that a new contract with Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. was executed on May 1. The newest agreement stipulates a continuous transaction with the company for six years with an option to terminate after four years. The contract amount is $360 million, which will be paid using revenue collections. Mobil Oil's previous contract expired on April 30, 2014.

During yesterday's board meeting, CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said the fuel contract's impact on customers consuming 500 kWh/monthly is $0.53 (53 cents). The required minimum volume purchase is 108 million gallons—or 18 million gallons per year. Once the total minimum purchase is reached, the rate drops by $.0611 per gallon.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108 million gallons minimum volume purchase over term (18 million gallons per year).
Rate drops by $.0611 per gallon once total minimum purchase is reached.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher discusses with the board yesterday the distinct benefits to CUC of the newly executed six-year fuel contract with Mobil Oil.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, the utility agency owed Mobil Oil $7.6 million under the previous contract. Of this debt, $1.3 million represents penalties incurred by CUC for not consuming up to the minimum contracted amount. The remaining $6.3 million represents all the debts CUC owed the company.

Sablan, who was very involved in the contract negotiations, said that under the new six-year contract, the entire $7.3 million debt will be terminated.

This is because Mobil Oil agreed to defer and waive the $1.3 million penalty after four years.

For the remaining $6.3 million debt owed by CUC, a "Marketing Assistance Program" will be provided to CUC. Under this program, CUC will receive $6.6 million in total assistance: $5.7 million to be issued in June 2014; and $900,000 scheduled to be provided in April 2015.

CUC officials revealed that to terminate the $6.3 million debt with Mobil Oil, all $5.7 million from the "Marketing Assistance Program" will be paid to the company upon receipt while the $600,000 shortfall to retire the $6.3 million debt will be paid using revenues and collection of CUC.

Once these debts are terminated, customer security deposits will no longer collateralize the Mobil payable.

The new agreement also provides CUC a $3 million unsecured line of credit at no cost to the agency.

Best deal

Based on CUC records, Mobil Oil's contract per year under the new agreement amounts to $61.465 million—a slight increase from the previous contract per year of $61.253 million. Both require fuel requirements of 18 million gallons a year.

Sablan described the new contract as "the best package for CUC."

CUC informed the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission early this year about the expiring contract of its fuel supplier and sought permission to negotiate a new contract. This request has yet to be acted upon by the CPUC.

According to Sablan, it was with the help of Gov. Eloy S. Inos that CUC progressed in negotiating the contract with Mobil through an executive order that placed the agency under state of emergency. During emergency declarations, all procurement laws and regulations are suspended until the order is lifted.

CUC operates three power plants, which are all diesel fuel engines. It spends about $60 million to $65 million each year on fuel.

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House overrides veto of drug testing for elected officials

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives overrode yesterday morning Gov. Eloy S. Inos' recent veto of Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) bill requiring mandatory drug testing for all elected officials.

But the Senate's override vote is still needed for the vetoed bill to become law, the first under the Inos administration.

By a vote of 16-2, the House overrode the governor's veto of House Bill 18-152, House Draft 2.

The two "no" votes came from Reps. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan).

Two members were off-island: Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the governor, in vetoing the measure, "respectfully raised specific constitutional issues and serious concerns about the legality and practicality of the penalty set forth in the bill."

"The intent of drug testing elected officials is commendable, but, the governor also has a duty to ensure that a bill is legally sufficient and practical before he affixes his signature in approval," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Leon Guerrero said a mandatory drug test for all elected officials helps make these officials accountable to the people they serve. He said this also promotes transparency in government and will help dispel peoples' bad perception about some elected officials.

"It doesn't hurt for us to go through drug testing," said Leon Guerrero, a former police officer with the Department of Public Safety. "The current law which is the random drug testing, I feel does not work because anybody can refuse it. With this mandatory testing, it's a must, you have to take it."

Seman, one of two who didn't support the override, said he supports a drug-free community but cannot support a legislation that infringes on one's privacy rights as guaranteed by the CNMI and U.S. Constitutions.

"When it comes to this particular legislation, I cannot ignore the fact that every individual's right is more important than anything else pursuant to our Constitution…I cannot compromise those things," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he supports drug tests for people who are holding safety- and security-sensitive positions such as police officers and crane operators because of the nature of their job.

Seman said there are ways to make elected officials accountable without infringing on their individuals rights.

He said the House of Representatives, for example, can require drug testing under its House rules.

"There is a case law in the Supreme Court…I'm talking about a Louisiana case, where the governor wanted to pass those legislation and the Supreme Court knocked it down," he said, adding that if the vetoed bill is successfully overridden by the Legislature, it could be challenged in court and that court challenge would likely be won because of the case law.

Some of those who voted "yes" to override the governor's veto did so "with reservation."

Among them is Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), who said his reservation had to do with concerns that it may be unconstitutional.

The governor cited three reasons for vetoing the bill. First, requiring elected officials to submit to drug tests could constitute an unreasonable search

See HOUSE on Next Page

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DPL: 1 pct. land fee for Street Market remains

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio said the land fee remains at 1 percent of Garapan Street Market vendors' gross sales, in response to a petition from the Thursday night market vendors' petition to eliminate the fee.

Tenorio said DPL noted the vendors' efforts in providing added tourist attraction, and he said this is the reason why DPL allows the Garapan Street Market to be conducted on "prime public land."

The Thursday street market is currently at the Garapan Fishing Base on Beach Road, fronting Saipan's scenic lagoon.

"It is fair that the DPL charges the 1 percent gross receipts for each vendor, rather than a fixed fee per month or annually. This fee shall remain in place for the duration of DCCA Temporary Authorization with DPL," Tenorio said in an April 25 letter to Garapan Street Market vendors' representative Jack Hudak of Thai House Restaurant. DCCA stands for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which runs the Thursday night street market.

The DPL letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday, was in response to the vendors' Jan. 15 letter.

Hudak, when sought for comment yesterday, said he will be passing copies of DPL's letter to vendors on Thursday, so that the group can decide as one.

"And we will go from there," he said.

Juan "Pan" Guerrero, general manager of Herman's Modern Bakery, one of the vendors at the Garapan Street Market, reiterated yesterday that DPL's 1 percent land fee is "not right," considering that vendors are already paying business gross revenue tax and the $50 DCCA fee as well as provide added attraction for tourists and residents.

"For me, this is not right. What else do they want from us vendors?" he asked.

Tenorio, in his two-page letter to Hudak, said the fee that DPL charges vendors is not a new one. The fee used to be 3 percent of vendors' gross revenues, but this was reduced to 1 percent in June 2012.

The DPL secretary said DCCA's Angel Hocog "is simply complying" with the provisions in DCCA's Temporary Authorization that DPL issued for Thursday Night Street Market vendors.

Tenorio said the 1 percent of gross revenues land fee is different and separate from DCCA's fee of $50 per night of vendor activity. The latter, he said, is for DCCA's setup and utility expenses.

"It is not an additional fee imposed by DPL," Tenorio added.

He explained that the Garapan Fishing Base is prime real estate and when appraised for market value will certainly indicate a much higher rental.

"Should an establishment [Street Market vendor] earn a gross of $70,000 a year on the Garapan Fishing Base (which is outside of your main restaurant or retail establishment), it will pay $700 to DPL for that year. This is still a much smaller fee than an annual lease operating 365 days a year. A gross of $70,000 annually is significant revenue to the vendor for only operations of approximately 48 days (or 64 hours) out of the year," the DPL secretary said.

He added that DPL has been supportive and considerate regarding vendors' needs by relocating its activity to the Garapan Fishing Base from Coral Tree Avenue.

Tenorio also reminded that vendors were supposed to move back to the Coral Tree Avenue after sewer line projects in the area were completed. But he said DCCA had requested for an extended use of the Garapan Fishing Base, and DPL was happy to authorize the extension.

SNORKELING

From Page 1

victim already made it to the area with the DPS medics.

The victim was brought to Rota Health Clinic, where he was pronounced dead.

Preliminary investigation showed that the victim was out on a snorkeling trip at the Pinatang Dive Site west of Songsong Village.

The victim, who was a snorkeling instructor, was with three customers, along with a boat captain.

According to witnesses' accounts, the three customers entered the water while the captain and the victim stayed aboard the boat.

After 20 to 30 minutes, the three customers returned to the boat. Five minutes later, the victim entered the water, followed by the customers.

After a few minutes, the customers alerted the captain that the victim was underwater and needed to be rescued. At this time, the captain called 911 for assistance.

After three minutes, the three customers pulled the victim into the boat and immediately started CPR, while the boat captain drove back to West Marina.

Upon arriving at West Marina, DPS medics arrived, applied CPR, and transported the victim to the Rota Health Clinic.

It was the second drowning incident in the CNMI this year.

In February, a 17-month-old boy drowned in the swimming pool of a house in Papago.

INITIATIVE

From Page 1

given that opportunity to at least air their decision on the ballot, but still I respect that," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

Passing the initiative at the House and Senate would have only meant that the Article 12 question will be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification.

The only two votes to pass House Legislative Initiative 18-4 came from Dela Cruz and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota).

At least 14 "yes" votes were needed to pass the initiative.

Santos said during the session that many of those who testified on the initiative on Rota wanted to be given a "chance" to decide on land ownership.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted "present."

He later said he's not advocating for Article 12's change or not, but an Article 12 decision should be at least presented to voters.

Three House members were either off island or not present at the time of voting: House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan).

The 14 votes to defeat HLI 18-4 were from Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), and Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan).

During discussion on the initiative, which began at 2:29pm, members took turns explaining their positions on HLI 18-4.

Seman, during the session, said the initiative, if ratified by voters, "is almost a pathway to full removal of Article 12." Tebuteb echoed this. But Seman said he supports amending the blood quantum requirement.

"We cannot afford to let go [of our lands]," Seman said. "We don't have anything to fall back on."

Leon Guerrero said land owners can still lease their private lands for up to 55 years, "enough to enjoy life," and to eventually pass these lands on to their children, grandchildren, and so on.

Demapan, for his part, said as leaders, they have "an obligation to preserve our culture at all cost…to ensure [land] ownership remains with NMDs."

Dela Cruz said the initiative does not seek to abolish Article 12, but rather gives landowners an option whether to keep the mandatory land ownership restriction or not.

He said even if voters ratify the initiative, the final decision still rests with landowners, whether they want to continue to subject their property to Article 12 or not.

Under the initiative, the Article 12 restriction would be in place for at least 25 years before it could be removed. The initiative gives each landowner the option of either accepting or rejecting the restrictions of Article 12 with respect to their land.

If they so choose, landowners have to file a declaration of restriction describing the property with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

At least 25 years after the filing, the owner in fee simple of restricted property may remove the restriction by filing a declaration to remove that restriction.

Camacho, during the session, said Article 12 is "not a problem" but a "protection."

"We should stop messing around with it," he said.

Dela Cruz said lawmakers are "shortchanging our people of Northern Marianas descent" by not giving them a chance to vote on the Article 12 question.

Ogumoro countered by saying, "as leaders…we owe it to our people to protect them."

House members conceded that Article 12 remains a sensitive and divisive issue in the CNMI.

Others also said it was the reverse of what happened with the Saipan casino bill that passed the House and Senate, even though some members wanted it to be put on the ballot for voters to decide.

Other Article 12 initiatives

Despite the defeat of Dela Cruz's initiative, there's already one Article 12 initiative that will be on the ballot for voters to decide in the November election—amending the 25 percent NMD blood requirement.

This one is authored by Ogumoro, allowing any U.S. citizen with "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent who can own land in the CNMI.

Ogumoro said her measure, once ratified by voters, will help ensure that NMDs will be able to pass on their land to their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and so on, even if they fall below the current 25-percent NMD blood requirement.

Meanwhile, the Citizens for Change of Article 12 also launched a signature drive to place an Article 12 question on the ballot this November, whether they want to retain or remove the mandatory restriction.

INMATE

From Page 1

and DOC," Castro said.

He said DOC officers responded and subsequently subdued Sablan.

The lieutenant said he could not elaborate because he needs to find out who were there in the visitation area and who witnessed the incident.

"Until such time we get information then we will release the full information. We're not going to hide anything," Castro said.

A source said the victim visited her boyfriend at DOC and she told him she was leaving for Guam.

Sablan then allegedly stabbed the victim with a toothbrush.

It was not clear whether the victim is Sablan's girlfriend.

In 2006, the Superior Court sentenced Sablan to life in prison for the kidnapping and attempted murder of a gas attendant in 2005.

While in prison, Sablan also assaulted his former girlfriend at DOC in 2007, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

"That is why we can't have the students in the cafeteria. They even took milk and juices and slashed them with a knife and spilled them all over the cafeteria. Those are commodities that our children could have used," Calvo said.

Many cases of milk and juice drinks were destroyed.

She estimated the damage to run in the thousands of dollars.

"It was very unsanitary and we are crying for help because we can't do this all the time and we're also forced to get cleaners to sanitize the cafeteria so children can start eating again inside," Calvo said.

She noted that children could not enter the cafeteria due to the strong smell of chlorine, which could hurt them and cause major health problems.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said that they are going to look into the matter.

"We are going to come into a resolution of this particular set of cases," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he has not been thoroughly briefed yet as he was off-island but that he will work with police commanders to look into this case.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon Camacho said that they will establish a neighborhood watch program in Kagman due to these incidents.

KagES first fell victim to unidentified vandals on March 22, 2014. They damaged potted plants, water faucets, and littered the campus hallways. The second incident happened on April 2, causing further harm to the campus.

Calvo said the vandals are trying to make KagES students' lives miserable.

"The reason why I say that is because they have not made any attempts to steal from our school, but have made many attempts to mess up our school," Calvo said.

According to her, these vandals have torn down posters made by KagES students hanging in front of classroom doors, torn down plants that have beautified the school, used mud to "decorate" the ceilings and floors, and left bathroom faucets turned on all night.

"To prevent us from saving up for water, they actually broke the pipe last time. This time around they broke two pipes," Calvo said.

This led to the school shutting down their water supply just so they can save water. Calvo said that Kagman High School sent their maintenance staff to help fix the pipes.

She said the culprits were close to vandalizing the school's only stage but somebody saw them and they ran off.

HOUSE

From Page 3

and seizure in violation of the CNMI and/or U.S. Constitutions, the governor said.

He said based on a U.S. Supreme Court precedent, a state law that requires drug testing of public officials must be based on individualized suspicion of wrongdoing unless the state has showed that there is a "special need" for "suspicion-less" testing. He said the bill does not support a special need to test elected officials in the CNMI.

Second, the governor said, requiring the results of drug tests to be made public may violate elected officials' right to privacy, which is guaranteed in the CNMI Constitution.

Third, the governor said, HB 18-152 is vague and problematic. For example, the bill does not specify whether the elected official or the government is to pay for the drug test.

But Leon Guerrero said the governor himself earlier remarked that "funding" shouldn't be a problem when it comes to mandatory drug testing. The governor, however, was referring to law enforcement personnel.

Review of rate petitions costs CUC customers up to $500K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The chairman of the newly revived Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, David J. Sablan, expressed deep concern yesterday over the fees being charged the utility agency by Georgetown Consulting, the consultant of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Citing records bared yesterday, Sablan said the Georgetown billing is just too much for a small utility agency like CUC.

It was learned that in just one rate petition filed with the utilities commission, CUC spent about $300,000 to $500,000 to pay for the services of Georgetown.

As required by regulation, CUC must first seek the CPUC's approval before any rate adjustments or changes in its tariffs. Georgetown, as CPUC's consultant, reviews and assesses CUC's rate petitions and charges CUC for its services.

Besides Georgetown, CPUC also has a hearing examiner that does almost the same task of "reviewing" and making "recommendations" to the regulatory body.

Sablan said he wouldn't mind CUC spending so much for the review of a petition if the process is "quick and fast." However, this is not the case with CUC's petitions, which oftentimes take months to address.

"I know it's not under our control…but it seems to me that these consultants are the ones running the show. I don't mind if it's a quick and fast [process] and have a very good set of questions and comments [regarding CUC's petition]. But we just pay too much to review a simple rate case," said Sablan yesterday.

He said the CUC board will appeal to the utilities commission, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, or the Legislature in order to stop the "unwarranted charges" being assessed by the commission's consultant.

In an interview with CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren yesterday, he told *Saipan Tribune* the fees CUC pays Georgetown depends on the hours they work in reviewing the CUC petition.

"It depends on how many hours they put in our petition. Typically in a rate case, it's anywhere from $300,000 to $500,000," said Warren.

He confirmed, during the open session yesterday, that CUC paid some $500,000 in the last petition it filed with the commission.

Warren explained that the CPUC consultant usually gives CUC a volume of questions to respond to when deliberating on a rate petition. In the latest rate petition, CUC responded to over 600 questions.

For Sablan, however, "every time they drag on [a petition's review] it means less revenue for us and more expenses. So it's really a double whammy [for CUC]."

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To emphasize his point, Sablan said the CPUC consultant and its hearing examiner are not even on island when they review and study these rate petitions.

Since some petitions have been constantly delayed as a result of reviews and recommendations from the CPUC consultant, CUC in actuality is already shortchanged when its petition is approved, Sablan added.

Under CPUC regulations, any fees incurred by its consultant in reviewing the petition filed by an entity must be shouldered by the petitioner.

An acknowledgement and a Special Thanks
to the following business establishments for their generous in-kind donations, which were used as door prizes during Fr. Sid T. Ogumoro's Silver Anniversary Fundraising Dinner.

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And to all the individual community members who helped support for Fr. Sid.

Thanks again,
Erna

Probable cause found to charge BECQ staff and co-defendant

A Superior Court judge found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against a staff of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and another man who allegedly burglarized a house in Chalan Kiya.

At a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said there is probable cause to believe that BECQ environmental specialist Elmer John Duenas Sablan and Larry M. Sugiyama may have committed burglary, theft, and conspiracy.

The two will be arraigned on May 12.

Attorney Janet H. King is counsel for Sablan, while assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is counsel for Sugiyama.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister first called to the witness stand police detective Francisco Iginoef, who handled the investigation.

According to Iginoef, the house the suspects allegedly burglarized is being rented by Saipan runner Steven Johnson and his girlfriend, Kaitlin Mattos. At that time, the couple had a guest triathlete from the Philippines.

Iginoef said that Sablan and Sugiyama confessed that they were involved in the burglary on April 17, 2014, and that they sold the stolen items to different people.

Police recovered some of the stolen items during follow-up investigations.

According to Johnson's guest, she went jogging before 9am but she did not lock the front door. When she returned before 9:40am, she noticed that some items, including her iPhone, were missing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A Mother's Day to remember

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_ Scarlett
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- Shawn and Shalei

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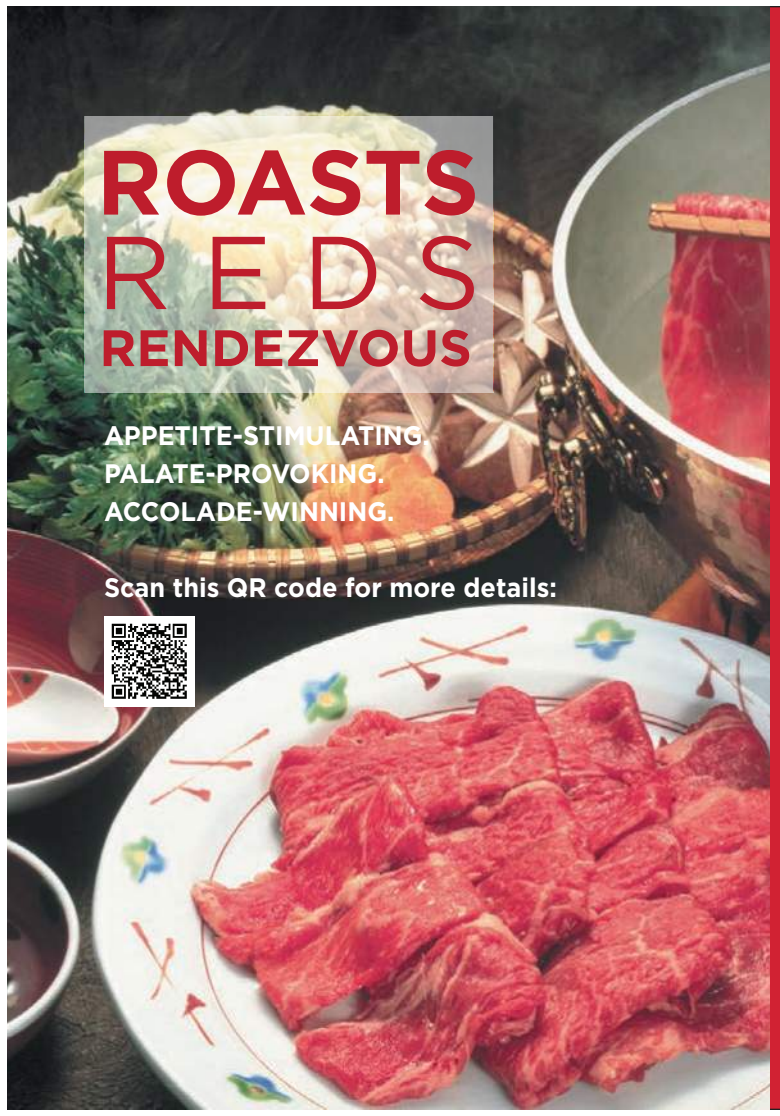

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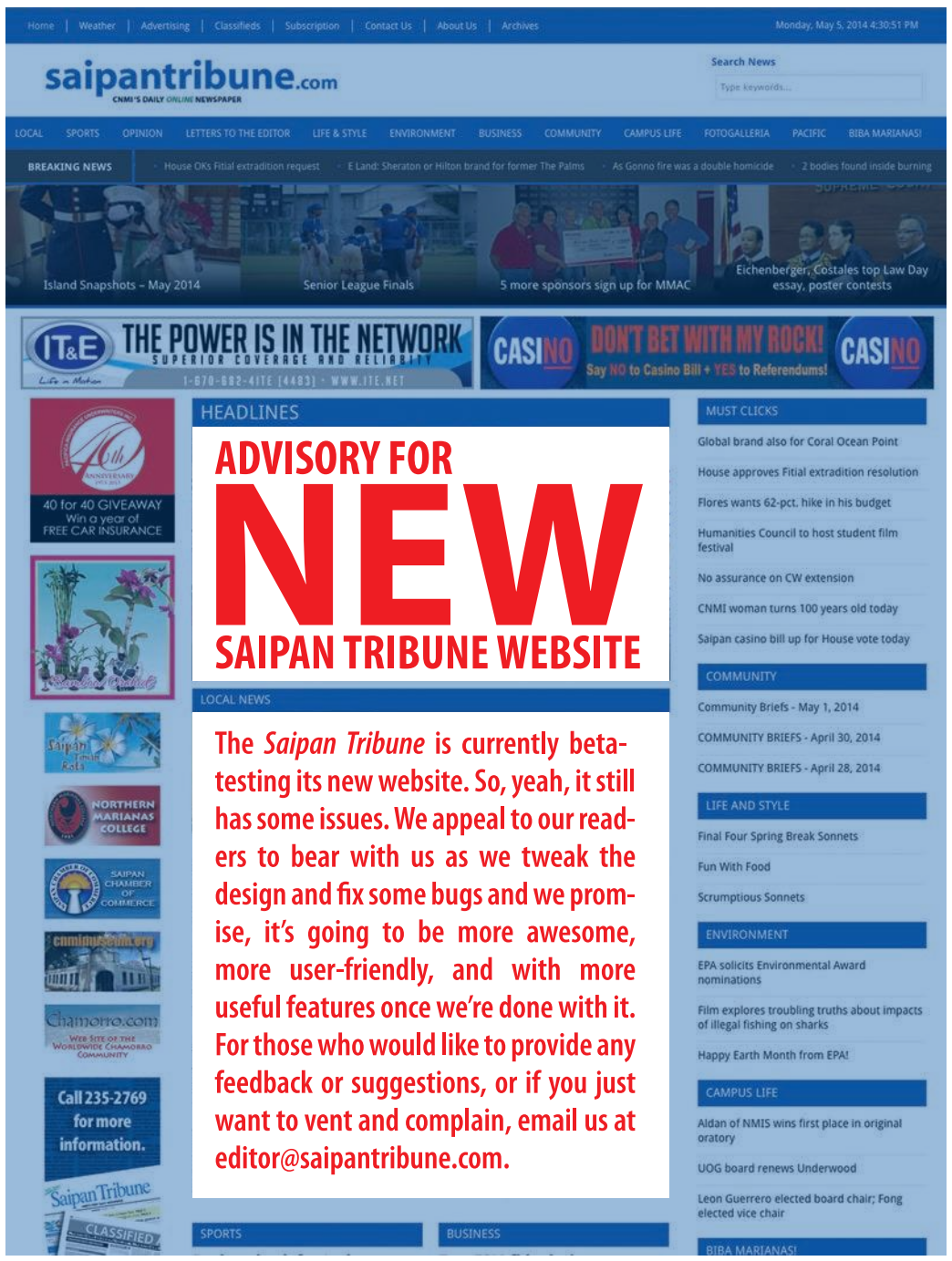
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Salem receives boot camp top honor

JAYSON CAMACHO

Ricardo Salem holds up his son's, Nicko Salem's, award and stands beside various awards in honor of his two sons' achievements at Winner's Apartment in San Antonio.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lance Corporal Nicko S. Salem became the first recruit from Saipan to earn the coveted company honor graduate for Company M after completing his boot camp training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California.

CNMI Marine Recruitment Center recruitment officer Sgt. Gregorio Comeo presented Salem's father, Ricardo Salem, with his son's award.

"This is the first time a recruit from Saipan has received the highest honor," Comeo said.

Salem received the award from Chesty Puller Recruit Company. It was presented to him by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation last April 25.

According to Ricardo Salem, Comeo brought the trophy along with the other awards for Nicko Salem and another son, Nevin Salem.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Ricardo Salem said he is proud of Nicko Salem for completing his training and taking home the award.

"I am excited and I want him to continue to study so he can receive more achievements," the elder Salem said.

According to him, Saipan Southern High School officials came to him and presented medallions for Nicko Salem and his brother Nevin Salem, who also joined the U.S Army.

Nicko S. Salem graduated from SSHS in 2012 and had recently worked for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan before choosing a career in the U.S. Marine Corps.

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IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE FILED VS COUPLE

Camacho denies OAG's request to use redacted confessions at trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied the Office of the Attorney General's motion to allow the use of redacted statements made by a woman accused of aiding her boyfriend in sexually abusing a girl inside a motel room, at a joint trial.

Camacho determined that if defendant Daisina Suda decides not to testify at trial, the admission of her redacted confessions as evidence would violate co-defendant Parvej MD. Barpery's confrontation rights.

The OAG redacted Suda's statements, removing references to Barpery by name.

But Camacho pointed out that although the redacted statements remove all instances of Barpery's name, they do not remove references to his existence.

Camacho said only two people are alleged to be involved in the crimes charged, so the reference by Suda to "another person" in her redacted statements is akin to her taking the stand and pointing her finger at Barpery; only here, Barpery would not have the opportunity to cross-examine Suda.

"Thus the introduction of the proposed redacted statements would violate Barpery's confrontation rights, even if the jury were presented with a limiting instruction," the judge said.

According to court records, Suda and Barpery each face one count of sexual assault in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace. The court granted the OAG's motion to try the two jointly.

The government alleges that in May 2013, Barpery sexually assaulted a then 17-year-old girl inside a motel room in San Jose.

The Commonwealth alleges that Suda aided Barpery in the sexual assault by transporting the minor to the scene of the assault, yelling at her and physically restraining her during the sexual assault.

In January 2014, Suda gave two different statements during the investigation of the alleged offense, implicating herself and Barpery in the alleged sexual assault. The OAG redacted the statements, removing references to Barpery by name.

On March 13, assistant attorney general Peter Prestley filed a motion asking for a court finding that introducing the proposed statements as evidence at trial would not violate Barpery's confrontation rights. Prestley also provided a proposed limiting instruction to be used during trial.

The OAG did not give the court the text of the original statements or a description of how these statements were obtained.

The OAG argued that by replacing Barpery's name with neutral pronouns, the redacted statements are constitutionally permissible and not a violation of the defendant's confrontation rights.

At the April 16, 2014, hearing on the motion, Barpery's counsel, Daniel Guidotti, orally opposed the motion, arguing that introduction of the redacted statements would violate Barpery's confrontation rights in two ways.

First, Guidotti said that since Barpery will be sitting in the courtroom, the jury need only make a one-step inference to determine that the neutral pronouns in Suda's statements refer to him.

Second, Guidotti said, because Suda gave two different statements, Barpery's confrontation rights will be violated because he will be unable to cross-examine Suda about the inconsistencies between those statements.

Suda, who is represented by attorney Samuel Mok, expressed no opinion concerning the motion.

In denying the motion, Camacho said the introduction at a joint trial of a non-testifying co-defendant's confession that names the defendant and implicates him in a crime violates the defendant's right to confront the witnesses against him.

From the statement, Camacho said, it is clear that there were only two people allegedly involved in the crime and only two people are on trial, so the reference to "another person" refers to Barpery.

Camacho determined that even if Suda's redacted statements were the first piece of evidence to be introduced at trial, the jury could infer from those statements the fourth person in the hotel room, the person who committed the sexual assault, was Barpery.

"Thus, even though evidence introduced after the redacted confessions, such as the testimony of the alleged victim, may confirm that inference, such external evidence would not be necessary to make the inference," the judge added.

More than 45 attend Zoning outreach in Kagman

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 45 parents, students, and community members attended the Saipan Zoning Office's public outreach on Monday, May 6, at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School in Kagman.

While community members and residents flocked to the event, representatives of Saipan businesses have yet to attend the public outreach.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro led the presentation on Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 in an effort to educate residents and businesses alike. According to Ogumoro, the new zoning law has jurisdictions over Saipan and Managaha, but not on Rota and Tinian.

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 was passed and signed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos on July 15, 2013.

Ogumoro said the zoning law has been updated twice since its first inception in 2006. It includes "major rezones" on Saipan such as major roadways and thoroughfares. She focused her discussion Monday specifically on Kagman.

"In the intersection beginning near Kagman Mobil gas station and the Camacho lands, properties have been rezoned to mixed commercial," Ogumoro said.

She said the main road leading to Kagman near the gas station and about 300 feet from the "center of the road" both north and south areas have been zoned as village commercial.

Following the village commercial zone, the area around Santa Lourdes Church and across is an agricultural region, and is the only agricultural zoning district on Saipan.

Community members also asked about other areas of Kagman and whether violations of the law have occurred on Kagman.

Ogumoro said that inspections are still ongoing, but noted that some have violated several sections of the zoning law.

"We will continue to provide outreach for the community to make them understand the zoning law more and urge more community members and businesses to attend," Ogumoro said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meets on Tuesday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Charter Day committee extends deadline for competitions

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee has extended the deadline for those interested in participating in the Charter Day competitions: Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands, and the Hilux Truck and Sport Compact Car Show. The new deadline to submit registration forms has been extended to Monday, May 12, 2014.

The registration fee to compete in the car show is $25. Auditions for the Battle of the Bands will take place on May 12, 2014, and Marianas Idol will be on May 13, 2014. The auditions will be held in the Student Center, Building J at the As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 6pm.

Registration forms for the car show and competitions may be picked up at the NMC Student Center (Building J), or can be downloaded at www.marianas.edu. For additional information, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 Ext. 6790 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMPASI closed this Friday

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. office will be closed this Friday, May 9, 2014, from 8amto 5pm for staff development. ***(NMPASI)***

NMI preps for Memorial Day rites

The CNMI will be celebrating Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2014, at 9am at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. The Veterans Affairs director and its committee will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and is inviting the immediate families to join with the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the Veterans Affairs Office for details at 664-2650/2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

Memorial Week proclamation signing

The Office of the Governor and the Veterans Affairs Office has scheduled a Memorial Week proclamation signing on Monday, May 19, 2014, 10am, at the Office of the Governor's conference room. All veterans, active and reserved military personnel, family members of those departed veterans, and the general public are invited to come and join this proclamation signing. ***(PR)***

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species
Open House Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
6:00-8:00 pm
American Memorial Park Visitor Center
Garapan, Saipan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is considering whether certain species in the Mariana Islands warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act through listing and critical habitat.

The Service is holding an Open House meeting to provide information on 23 species located in Guam and the CNMI that are under consideration for listing as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, 16 (9 plants and 7 animals) of which are found in the CNMI. The information meeting will provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn about the process for the proposed listing and critical habitat rule, and for Service personnel to answer questions from interested parties.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-SOQ-14-013

DESIGN OF LOWER BASE SEWER SYSTEM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms to design the Lower Base Sewer System on the island of Saipan, which will replace the existing and dilapidated sewer system which dates back to the Naval administration of Saipan. The design will intercept the existing Capitol Hill sewer in the lower portion of Isa Drive, will service the main Lower Base industrial area, and will include a new lift station that will pump into the existing force main coming from Tanapag. This force main will be extended and enlarged from the point of connection to discharge to the existing S-3 lift station at the Saipan Seaport, enabling the abandonment of lift stations S-1, T-3, and the Tan Holdings lift station. Connection of all existing, active buildings within the area served by the design will also be included. A&E services will include the necessary geotechnical and surveying services to develop the design and construction documents. Work must be coordinated with the A&E firm selected by the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF) to design the Lower Base water system, which will be on-going at near the same time as this design contract. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and all work is subject to EDA review and approval.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective A&E firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC SOQ 14-013, Request for Statement of Qualifications-Design of Lower Base Sewer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 6, 2014. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing A&E firms.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 27, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than May 29, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Pacific museum group appoints a new president

The board of the Pacific Islands Museums Association recently appointed a new president, Joseph Artero-Cameron, to lead them for the next three years. His appointment is timely as PIMA gears itself for the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in Guam in 2016. PIMA will be hosting an international museum conference at this large regional Pacific cultural event. PIMA members include more than 45 museums and cultural centers in the Pacific, as well as nonprofit organizations, corporate members, and individuals who support the vision, aims, and activities of the organization.

In welcoming his new appointment, Artero-Cameron said, "As the new PIMA President, I welcome this role with an endless passion and commitment to elevating our association with a window of opportunity to address myriads of disciplines and renewed synergy in museology. As the president of Guam Museum and a member for the board of directors for Guam Museum Foundation, Inc., I bring with me international and regional experience to fit this role with PIMA."

Past PIMA president Adi Meretui Ratunabuabua shares similar sentiments. "He is a leader who is actively engaged with many museums throughout the United States and a member in good standing with the American Alliance of Museums in Washington, D.C. As a PIMA board member, we look forward to working with Artero-Cameron as he leads our organization to the future."

Artero-Cameron is a native of Guam. He is currently president of the Department of Chamorro Affairs. Artero-Cameron also directs four Government of Guam agencies/departments and is lead adviser for the Guam governor on ocean matters. He works closely with other ocean scientists, federal, state and local stakeholders spanning the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Hawaii, CNMI, and American Samoa.

"The variety of experiences he brings to this role will be beneficial not only to PIMA but to other regional and international organizations that PIMA is part of," said PIMA trustee Professor Amareswar Galla. "Even though PIMA's mission is to firstly promote the work of museums in the Pacific, the vast experience that Artero-Cameron holds as the executive director for Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, executive director for Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority, director of the Guam Public Library System, and president of Guam Public Broadcasting System will also be beneficial for PIMA."

Artero-Cameron is the head of delegation for the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in Guam. ***(PIMA)***

Proposals due to enhance wildlife recreational opportunities

HONOLULU—Proposals are now being accepted for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, a competitive $20 million grant program that gives state and tribal governments opportunities for owners and managers of private lands to make them available for public recreation.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will make the funds available to state and tribal governments. Recipients can use the grant funding to create new or expand existing public access programs. These programs provide financial incentives or technical assistance, such as rental payments or wildlife habitat planning services, to owners and managers who allow public access.

Applications are due by June 16, 2014, and should be completed at Grants.gov.

"Private lands provide diverse and healthy habitats, which are home to most of our nation's wildlife," NRCS acting director Christine S. Clarke said. "Through the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, the Pacific Islands Area has an important tool to expand access to private lands for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreation related to wildlife. It's not just about enhancing wildlife habitat and management, but also about boosting local economies with wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities in the islands."

Funding priority will be given to applications that propose to:

· Maximize private lands acreage available to the public;

· Ensure that land enrolled in the program has appropriate wildlife habitat;

· Strengthen wildlife habitat improvement efforts;

· Supplement funding and services from other federal or state agencies, tribes or private resources; and

· Provide information to the public about the location of public access land.

For more information, view the notice on Grants.gov or the program's website. The Pacific Islands Area contact for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program is Karen. Dearlove@ak.usda.gov or (907) 283-8732 Ext. 114. ***(NRCS)***

EPA announces funding availability to clean up diesel engines nationwide

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday the availability of $9 million in grant funding for clean diesel projects to reduce diesel pollution and emissions exposure from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines.

The funding comes from EPA's Diesel Emission Reduction Program and will target the most cost-effective projects and fleets operating in areas designated as poor air quality areas.

Diesel engines are extremely efficient but emit air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants are linked to a range of serious health problems including asthma, lung and heart disease, other respiratory ailments, and even premature death.

Under this funding, EPA anticipates awarding between 10 and 20 assistance agreements. Various strategies are eligible for achieving diesel emission reductions, such as installing verified exhaust control and idle reduction devices, and vehicle and engine replacement. Projects may include school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and other diesel engines.

Since the start of the DERA program in 2008, it has improved air quality and provided critical health benefits by reducing hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollution and saving millions of gallons of fuel. EPA estimates that clean diesel funding generates up to $13 of public health benefit for every $1 spent on diesel projects.

EPA has awarded over 600 DERA grants across the U.S. and reduced more than 250,000 tons of nitrogen oxides and more than 14,000 tons of particulate matter. Many of these projects fund cleaner diesel engines that operate in economically disadvantaged communities whose residents suffer from higher-than-average instances of asthma, heart, and lung disease.

The closing date for receipt of proposals is June 17, 2014.

More information and to access the Request for Proposals and other documents: http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prg-national.htm.

More information on EPA's National Clean Diesel campaign: http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel. ***(EPA)***

LAW REVISION COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JUDICIAL BRANCH
House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Iimwal Aweewe
P.O.Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179
Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897 • E-Mail: cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 12:00 p.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Introductions
   c. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901 et seq.)
   d. Final Approval of December 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes
2. Executive Director's Report
   a. 2014 Products
   b. Website updates
   c. LRC Website Trainings
   d. Proposed FY 2015 Budget
   e. Sale Items
3. Old Business
   a. Trust Territory Code & Cases
   b. Municipal Laws
4. New Business
   a. 2014 Commonwealth Code Books
   b. 2014 Driver's Education Handbook
   c. Professional Development
5. Other Business
6. Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **VICENTE P. CASTRO and DOLORES C. PANGELINAN,** **and** **PREPEDIGNA KILELEMAN, BERNARD KILELEMAN, and TYRONE KILELEMAN** **Successors in Interest** **Defendants.**	**Civil Action No. 11-0104** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 17, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the abovecaptioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of April, 2014.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 7, 2006

Another casino MOA signed
The Fitial administration signed Friday a memorandum of agreement with a Los Angeles-based casino investor for a casino operation on Tinian. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said during Friday's news briefing that the agreement was signed between the Department of Public Lands and Hollywood Park Casino. The casino, owed by Hong Kong-born Leo Chu, is located in the famous Hollywood Park Racetrack. It is said to be the first casino in the United States located in a racetrack. Hollywood Park Casino representative Charlie Dizon earlier said that Chu is very interested in bringing his operations to Tinian. Dizon led a fact-finding team to Tinian this week.

'It's non-renewal of memo, not TWA'
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial clarified Friday that the government's target for deportation or repatriation are only the "illegal" workers, including those holding Department of Labor-issued memorandum who are working. Fitial said the a memorandum is not a work permit, but a permission to seek work in the CNMI. "Now some of them are already working when they only have a memorandum. That's illegal. They can't start working without TWAs," he said.

May 7, 2007

New deadline for immigration bill draft
The U.S. Department of the Interior has been granted an extension to submit its draft of the CNMI immigration bill. According to Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen, the new deadline is the close of business Friday, May 11, 2007, in Washington, D.C. "This will give us more time to get feedback from others who would play a role in implementing any legislation, including the CNMI government and some of our colleagues in the (federal) Executive Branch," Cohen said. He added, "Although the [Bush] administration will have a chance later to officially review and take a position on any legislation that may be introduced, the Congressional staff agrees that it's better to give the relevant parties within the executive branch more of a chance to review the draft legislation before it is introduced."

GOP secretary threatens to resign over barrage of calls regarding non-selection of ex-lawmaker
A local GOP official has threatened to resign from his position if members do not stop quizzing him about Precinct 1 club's decision to reject former Rep. David Apatang's electoral bid and its impact to the party's unity. Kimo M. Rosario, secretary of the NMI Republican Party Association, said he received a barrage of calls following rumors that Apatang had not been selected by his precinct club to be an official GOP candidate in the Nov. 3 midterm election. More members called when a newspaper report came out Friday stating that Apatang was in fact not selected. This time, the callers wanted to find out whether this would split the party.

May 7, 2008

Power rate more than doubles
Residential customers are in for a shock when they get their power bills next month, after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. revised its power rates yesterday, increasing them to more than double the previous rates. The action comes soon after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Saturday signed into law the measure that suspends the power rates rollback. Effective Saturday, the rate for residential customers for the first 500 kilowatt-hour is 37.3 cents per kWh—the highest ever electric rate in the CNMI.

Govt hires a new lobbyist for $25K
The Fitial administration has hired a new firm to lobby for the Commonwealth's request for a $15-million federal aid. The local government says it needs the $15 million to cope with the expected impact of federally mandated minimum wage hikes. The administration said the new firm, Fleishman-Hillard, was hired last month for $25,000. The amount will cover work for a period of six months. The Commonwealth was previously represented by the law firm of Oldaker, Biden & Belair at a cost of $15,000 per month for at least one year. The local government had hired the law firm to block minimum wage hikes and immigration federalization. Both measures have been passed by the U.S. Congress.

NMC Charter Day vendor applications due this Friday

The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's annual Charter Day celebration on Friday, May 16, 2014.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food and drinks (water/ coconut juice in a nut), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys, etc.), and information.

Booth applications forms must be submitted by this Friday, May 9, 2014, by 4pm. Note, however, that booth spaces are limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 for all commercial vendors but for student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75.

Applications forms are available for download at www.marianas.edu, or can be picked up from the NMC Student Center in Building J.

For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 6790 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. Additional information about NMC Charter Day is also available online at www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

Food vendors from last year's Charter Day offered an array of delicious food and drinks. Come check out all the different vendors that will be featured at this year's Charter Day on Friday, May 16, 2014, from 5pm to 10pm at the NMC Field. To sign up for booth space, visit marianas.edu.

Precinct 1 bet Propst to hold first fundraiser

The Committee-to-Elect Edwin Kenneth Propst is hosting a *Meet and Greet* fundraiser on May 14, 2014, at 6pm at the Propst Party Pit (located at the residence of Ivan K. and Juanita Propst) in Susupe. Tickets are currently on sale for $20 each.

Committee officers include Ana B. Ada, chairperson; Kimo M. Rosario, vice chairman; Edward Calvo, treasurer; and Daisy Manglona-Propst, secretary.

In a statement, Rosario said, "Free appetizers and one free drink come with each purchased ticket. Most importantly, the event provides an opportunity for both the candidate and supporters to engage in healthy discourse at an individualized or personal level."

"Individuals interested in purchasing tickets are kindly asked to contact our committee chair, Ms. Ana B. Ada, at 287-0966 anytime. I may also be reached at 287-0724 after 4:30pm during regular business days and the weekend preceding the scheduled event. To ensure that no political activities—e.g., selling of fundraising tickets—occur during regular working hours, the committee has decided to control the sale of tickets. Our candidate and committee are committed at honoring and adhering to the Code of Ethics established by most organizations (federal/local government or private) as far as political functions and activities go," Rosario added.

"Please join us for a fun evening on Wednesday, May 14, from 5pm to 9pm, at Mr. and Mrs. Ivan and Juanita Propst's residence, home of the popular Propst Party Pit! Once again, thank you for your support," committee chair Ada said.

For his part, Ed Prospt, an independent candidate for Precinct 1, extends his heartfelt appreciation for the support he has received since he declared his candidacy for a seat in the House of Representatives in the upcoming November elections.

"If our people in our precinct want me to represent them, then it will happen. Please know that there is no partisan politics with me. I will represent everyone in our precinct, Saipan community, and entire CNMI regardless of your political ideology, religion, race, or financial status. At the end of the day, we are all in this together. It's really about putting people first and bringing government back to the governed—the people. Elected officials are not only representatives of the public, they are the voices of the people. If elected, I will be that voice," said Propst.

"To my chairwoman Ana Ada, my vice chairman Kimo Mafnas Rosario, treasurer Edward Calvo, and all of our family and friends and supporters, I am humbled, blessed, and most grateful for your support. May God bless our beloved islands. *Biba* CNMI!" Propst added. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-095

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 16, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A LED SIGN TRAILER FOR THE TINIAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

NMHC IFB 2014-002

BID TITLE: "PURCHASING OF FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENTS FOR THE CNMI FIRE DIVISION"

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Proposal packets will be available on April 30, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - 10:00 a.m. – NMHC Conference Room, Saipan

DESCRIPTION: See Exhibit A and A-1

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) F&B Manager

Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of four years experience as an assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Managerial duties include instructing; assigning, reviewing and planning work of others; maintaining standards; coordinating activities; allocating recommending and approving employee promotions, transfers and discipline, and recommending discharge. Inspects restaurant, picnic areas and cart groupings for safety, food quality and presentation, associate and guest interaction, and organization and cleanliness of front lines, kitchen and storage areas, etc. Conducts training on employees relating to the F&B Operation. Recommends the purchase of additional / replacement equipment; obtains price quotes for and purchases supplies and other food / non-food products. Ensures locations prepare, present, and serve food on a timely basis. Ensure areas are monitored and any variance from specifications corrected. Coordinated with Executive Chef on Food Purchasing area to develop, set, and review menu cost, retail pricing and recipe cards including creating new food menu items and ways to present food attractively. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings, holidays and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 21, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: NOS.: (670) 664-3300 – 3304 FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole/Review/Revocation Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Parole/Review/Revocation Hearing is scheduled for **May 14, 2014, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M., and if needed be to continue on May 15, 2013, (Thursday) at 8:30 A.M.** at the **Jose M. Sablan Building, Department of Public Safety Conference Room, Susupe**, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Introduction to Board Legal Counsel
3. Roll Call
4. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Terrence A. Fitial	13-009	10-0166E
2. Derik C. Reyes	13-010	11-0273B/0218C
3. Patrick M. Calvo	13-013	08-0105A
4. Daniel N. Sablan Jr.	14-002	12-0099
5. Leon Joaquin Sanchez	14-004	12-0192(T)

IV. Review/Revocation	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
P.V. No.: PV-14-001		
1. Ramon R. Evangelista	97-007	82-00003

V. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 05/6/14

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Executive Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2014, (Thursday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.,** at the **Jose M. Sablan Building, Department of Public Safety Conference Room, Susupe**, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
- A) Call to order
- B) Introduction of New Board Counsel Re:Attorney James Zarones
- C) Roll Call
- D) Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
- A) Review/Adoption of Agenda
- B) Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2013

III. New Business
- A) Board Members seeking office
- B) Appointment of Acting Chairman
- C) Legislation to Clarify the effect of Revocation of Parole
- D) Regulations to clarify the procedure for Commutation, Pardon & Reprieve process

IV. Old Business
- A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
- B) Board's Drug Testing Policy
- C) Board's Rules and Regulation review

V. Miscellaneous
- A) Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 05/6/14

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Clemency is a good first step to ending failed War on Drugs policies

Finally, the U.S. government is waking up to the realization that it cannot jail its way out of a drug problem.

President Obama's Department of Justice last year stopped making the problem worse, easing mandatory minimum sentencing in some cases. Last week, it offered a relatively narrow window for retroactive review. The DOJ laid out criteria for a new and welcomed opportunity for inmates who have served at least a decade for low-level, nonviolent offenses to apply for clemency.

Decades of adherence to failed War on Drugs policies has helped make the U.S. the world's largest jailer, with only 5 percent of the planet's population but 25 percent of its inmates. Of the nearly 217,000 federal inmates, half are incarcerated for drug crimes, according to the Bureau of Prisons. Yet drug usage has risen 2,800 percent since the War on Drugs began in 1971.

That absurd juxtaposition has forced cities, including Seattle, and states, led by Washington and Colorado, to form a controlled revolt against marijuana laws, the low-hanging fruit of drug-policy reform.

But the federal government, until recently, has mostly ignored the clamor. Congress in 2010 finally ended a disparity in cocaine-sentencing laws that sent mostly African-American users of crack to prison for two years longer, on average, than mostly white users of powder cocaine. Congress, locked in dysfunction, hasn't made that law retroactive, or done anything else toward meaningful drug reform.

Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder are making an end run around the legislative branch by turning to clemency, the tool of the executive.

How far they are willing to go is an open question. Criteria for this clemency initiative are vague, requiring no "significant" criminal history and "demonstrated good conduct" in prison. Used broadly, about 7,000 or more inmates could be freed. Expect fewer.

In the meantime, Congress remains wedded to failed drug policies.

Members of Congress should wake up and realize drug-sentencing reform is a populist issue: More than half of Americans favor legalizing marijuana. And the issue is increasingly a bipartisan affair. Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a likely GOP presidential candidate, advocated to "shut prisons down" at the recent Conservative Political Action Conference. Sens. Dick Durban, D-Ill., and Mike Lee, R-Utah, are co-sponsors of the Smarter Sentencing Act, which would make retroactive the 2010 crack cocaine sentencing fix.

Obama and Holder, the first African-Americans to hold either job, speak eloquently about communities of color hollowed out by the racially disproportionate effect of the War on Drugs. Good for them for leading. They shouldn't be alone.

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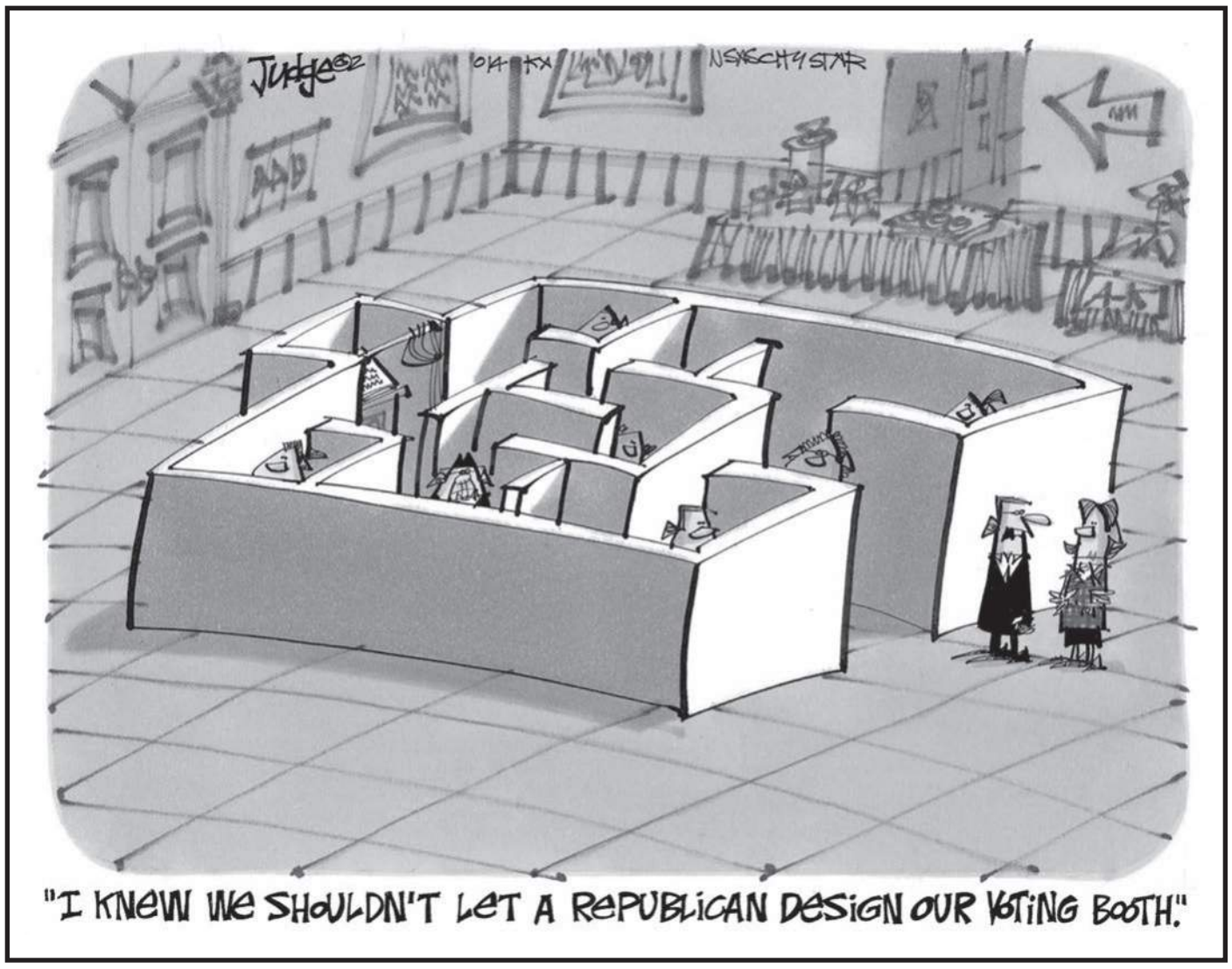


Hongqi

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The park in Shenyang where Mao's statue with the outstretched hand stands at the center island of the roundabout is called Hongqi Square. Literally, the word means the "red flag," so it denotes the highest grade of one's expenditure for country.

The Red Flag is prominently in display in China and wherever Chinese interests are located. China is good at furling flags, as banners with huge bold characters, and the red color, with myriad of flower arrangements, accompany every festive occasion.

The Red Flag was decided when the Communists took over in 1949. It is a red field with five golden stars in the canton (upper corner nearest the flagpole). The star's elliptical design features a large one, with four smaller ones in a semicircle toward the fly (the side farthest from the pole).

Red is the most prominent color in China, in this case representing the communist revolution. The five stars denote the unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China unifying the four social classes Mao mentioned in his "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship", i.e., the working class, the peasantry, the urban petite bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie.

I grew with Kuomintang neighbors seeing the Hongqi as a monstrous divisive symbol and was surprised to find that the "bourgeoisie" were half of the four groups in the symbol. I suppose the doctrinaire anti-bourgeoisie rah-rah of my youth served that prejudice well. The five stars in Hongqi is used by many to refer to the traditional five regions of China (the area between the two rivers of the Huanghe and the Chiang Jiang, Tibet, Xinjiang, Mongolia, and Manchuria), or the five major "five races under one union" of the post-1912 Beiyang Government of the Republic of China (Han, Tibetans, Hui, Mongols, and Manchus), thus making the Hongqi a harmonizing rather a dividing symbol!

This reflection, while it mentions the patriotism in parks, or the unifying intent of the flag, is also about the new symbol of China's new wealth as its old clunker of a limo that once ferried U.S. President Richard Nixon around in his sudden but historic visit in 1972 just evolved to become China's most expensive car recently displayed in the Beijing car show.

The Hongqi L5 has celadon (ceramic)-jade door handles, with perforated leather on everything, wood inlays hand-carved with Chinese designs like clouds, a computer tablet console at the center, and even Bose quality sound system. It is sure giving the Phantoms of Rolls Royce, Mulsanne of Bentley, Quattroporte of Maserati, to name a few of the world's favored rides, a run for their money and desirability, leaving many of what we normally consider as luxury vehicles (e.g., Lincoln, Fleetwood, et al) following the Hongqi L5's filtered (four exhaust pipes) fumes. It comes with a hefty price: a cool $800,000 minimum that did not faze the buyer of the first one on the sales floor.

I remember seeing a Maserati and a Ferrari on Saipan. I wondered what kind of selfhood issues the person(s) who brought it in had, as it evidently was not brought in for the drive on Saipan's thoroughfares, until I realized it was possibly a tax-avoidance scheme, eventually being shipped elsewhere in the U.S. where tariffs would be levied on the interstate commerce rate. I guessed.

The selfhood issue, however, remains relevant as I stared at the Hongqi L5 line. Why would anyone buy it in China other than to elevate one's *mianzi* (face), or drive one's girlfriend around if one owned an NBA franchise? (Oooops, wrong story.)

My question, of course, reflects the proletarian perspective of my upbringing. Xi Jinping used the image of China Dream when he ascended the president's office, and he hammered down "harmony in diversity" as a theme, which is not the unity of the gross misnomer when made to equal "similarity" but rings more truthful in any treatment of diversity anywhere. It is harmony in diversity at play, a theme deeply rooted in the *tai chi* and the *kung fu,* and the people's selfhood name of the people in the middle realm, *Zhongguoren.*

The CPC lived off the shoulders of the working class and the peasantry for so long until Deng Xiaoping blithely commented that in the reform and opening up era, "some will become richer first than others." It is now tempered by Xi Jinping's admonition to CPC bureaucrats that being in government and getting wealthy is a contradiction.

The citizens' *hukou* registration system kept everyone in place, making mobility from farm to city difficult; it favored urban dwellers against the peasants. The petite bourgeoisie got its break. Now the Hongqi L5 is the ultimate carrot available to the private entrepreneur.

Hongqi the park reminds me of Mao's four social classes united in the Red Flag that also brings five regions and five races under one umbrella of sovereignty. It is integral to the China Dream of *Zhongguo* the Middle Realm, and though its recent incarnation is a car that guzzles 100 liters of gas for every 20 km distance—a real but dumb status symbol—it may also reveal if those who buy one came to wealth in the prescribed and acceptable fashion.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Playing with fatal fire

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

When dealing with a sweeping issue like casino, it pays to study and learn what must be understood thoroughly before we jump from the pot right into a sizzling frying pan.

Without begging the issue, I've done some careful reading of a certain special report to the New Jersey Casino Gaming Control Commission. It pertains to joint ventures in the casino gaming industry in Macau.

The report says there are 29 casinos in Asia's gambling mecca associated with Asian organized crime or what's known as the "triad." Ooops! Is this why Gov. Eulogio Inos spouted that casino in Macau is an entirely different gaming industry from Vegas? Is it his and legislative cabal's agenda to corrupt and turn the island into a haven for Asian organized crime?

There was a change in the operations of casinos in recent past (decentralization) that allowed organized crime to slide into the gaming industry in Macau. It's known as the "VIP Room" where triad bosses moved in and controlled hotel bookings, ancillary services including drugs, prostitution and protection. Their role turns the gaming industry into a "lawless space."

A report prepared by the Library of Congress observes, "Top individuals in the triad structure often have established reputations as legitimate businessmen." But its influence and control is far worse than the tentacles of the largest giant squid. I'm sure that most decent folks here prefer retaining "island sensibilities" of peace and tranquility than becoming slaves of wealthy criminal organizations.

Do I trust the Lottery Commission? Absolutely not! None is equipped with the wherewithal and only one has the gravitas (integrity to leadership) to fulfill the task through to completion. It deals with strict adherence to guarding and ascertaining commitment to corporate regulatory integrity, a fiduciary duty the commission is likely to second-guess.

The casino law is terribly written, so revealed in all its shortsightedness or lack of symmetry (logic). It requires investors to deposit $30 million even before the Lottery Commission does due diligence with subsequent determination of award of license. Please save yourself the self-torture of failing to do due diligence. You must inform applicants of the stake at hand given that the law could easily be shot down this November. Do they still wish to make their deposits? If so, then it's our money for braving situational issues it must have taken seriously.

Pro-casino cabal is focused on dinky fees as to even lower taxes to 17 percent. Isn't it in taxes that casinos make their money? Goes to show the lack of percipiency on the issue as to brave another kamikaze or suicide. It's a bad law and this is our last opportunity to show the "walking dead" on the hill that we are ready to take back our island. Sign the petition to repeal the law in the interest of protecting and forging brighter tomorrows for our children!

Stormy casino tidings

The banner headline declares, "Junket figure disappearance shakes Macau's gambling industry," according to a story in the Asian edition of the *Wall Street Journal* written by Kate O'Keefe.

"Investors in the world's gambling capital could be out $1.3 billion following the disappearance of a junket operator." The disappearance of the junket figure that owes $1.3 billion U.S. dollars "is roiling the largest casino market and putting a spotlight on the opaque network of middlemen who drive nearly two-thirds of the Chinese territory's gambling revenue."

"Unlike other gambling hubs like Las Vegas, Macau depends on junkets for many of its customers. These companies bring high-spending gamblers to the casinos from mainland China, issue them credit and collect players' debts in exchange for commissions. The system took root there because the Chinese government imposes restrictions on how much cash its citizens can take out of the mainland and because gambling debts aren't considered valid inside China.

"Huang Shan, a junket operator active in Macau's gambling industry for around four years, disappeared sometime last month, according to several senior casino and junket industry executives investigating the matter. Mr. Huang's disappearance leaves investors struggling to recoup up to $1.3 billion, they said.

"Mr. Huang had developed a large business by offering investors payouts of 2.5 percent a month, higher than the industry standard of 1 percent to 2 percent, said some of the executives. Junkets operate much like banks, taking cash from investors and lending it out to gamblers. Many investors agree to fund that lending in return for fixed monthly dividends.

"People from Macau's junket industry have periodically disappeared with large debts before, and 'the market didn't even skip a beat,' said a senior casino executive investigating the situation. But the person said that this case could be different because of the enormous amount of money involved. 'At least 100 people are looking for this guy,' said an investor in one of Macau's largest junkets.

"Regulators around the world have expressed concerns about the junket industry, in part because the companies disclose little detail about their ownership structures, operations or customers."

NMI's fiscal crisis

With a cumulative deficit of over a billion dollars (while continuing the usual habit of deficit spending,) we quiz if the growing financial straits have any chance of realistic improvement moored on a set of fully thought out plans. Wish I could yell a loud "yes" but a truckload of "no" are on the bed of my Low Boy.

The annual revenue is projected at $140 million for fiscal year 2015, a not-so-very-encouraging indication that would enable the CNMI to wiggle itself out of the depressive and filthy financial swamp of bankruptcy. You remove $50 million for the Fund settlement agreement and there's $90 million left for everything else.

Buy fresh, buy local!

Third of a four-part series

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ramon Blas Camacho is president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Association and chairman of the 2014 Saipan Agriculture Fair. This column was submitted celebration of Saipan's 31st Agriculture Fair.

At present, we have the Division of Agriculture and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (under the Department of Land and Natural Resources) that are statutorily responsible for agriculture and aquaculture sustainability in partnership with the Northern Marianas College land grant institution (CREES), the Sabalu Farmers Association, the Saipan Fisherman Association, the Department of Commerce that should be working in conjunction and not in competition with the newly formed CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association that is aimed at expanding the economic opportunities for local farmer and others.

Production farming is, indeed, a prerequisite to a healthy community, not only toward achieving our goal of local food security by having more of our food grown locally—as the CNMI is dependent for more than 90 percent on off-island shipments of food—to satisfy the local demand for fresh produce, fresh fruits, fresh value-added agricultural products, fresh daily catch, fresh beef, pork and poultry, and local herbs or seasoning, while above threshold or excess production dedicated to our export markets in the neighboring islands and other overseas destinations. The CNMI if it truly dedicates itself to making agriculture the prosperous industry that it was during the Japanese Administration, for instance.

» A call for a coherent policy on food sustainability and security in agriculture in the CNMI

For this to happen requires that we all stop shooting ourselves in the foot, stop promoting export production and imported food subsidy and begin with the local food sustainability and security model of locally grown food production for local supply and consumption. As the late Anthony Pellegrino once said: "Agriculture is our next biggest industry. We have the fertile land and the knowledge to produce tons of fruits and vegetables and we can become the food basket and be economically prosperous." Guam, for example according to Pellegrino, imports more than $4 million on imported food every month and close to $50 million local revenues being exported annually to vendors outside Guam, instead of the money circulating within the Guam economy. The CNMI should not be too far behind on this revenue leakage or revenue export, second to currency remittances outside the CNMI.

Honolulu (Hawaii) Mayor Kirk Caldwell dubbed "food grown on Oahu for local consumption…ultimately as a security issue, because locally grown food will still be here for us to eat if the shipments stop." Mayor Caldwell added that "[l]ocally grown good is fresher, tastier and better for the environment because we don't have to burn fossil fuel to ship it to Oahu."

If Hawaii considers local food production in locally grown food a matter of security concern and also a critical component to a healthy community through fresh vegetables and fruits, for instance, on what basis can the Commonwealth proffer in faring better by choosing imported and processed foods, especially since where we are located is much farther away from and in a remote part of America.

Though we have built local capacity for a thriving agriculture sector in our local economy, there remains today some overriding issues and challenges daunting our local farming community. These unresolved issues are disincentives to strong participation by local farmers in the agriculture industry. For these challenges frustrate not just local participation but impact on our ability to make the industry sustainable. Chief among these challenges are the unresolved water rate that penalized farmers at the Kagman farm plot and those other plots outside the Kagman farm community. The Kagman farmers have yet to benefit from a federally-funded watershed project that is part of the Kagman plot irrigation system.

The other challenge facing today's local farmers is the unresolved land rental fee assessed at the Kagman plot and other public lands outside of the Kagman farm plots.

The farmers association will continue its advocacy on a rental fee farm plot assessed at $0.01 per square meter. This rate may appear minuscule. However, when the acreage required for farmers to reach break even in the industry is taken into account, the recommended rental land fee is both reasonable, and more importantly, a necessary policy in building and sustaining an evolving agriculture economy and related sectors in order to achieve a comparatively high multiplier ratio and impact on the local economy.

From a macro policy vantage point, the requested farm plot rental fee at $0.01 per square meter provides a strong incentive for increased industry and market penetration by residents into agriculture and related chain of agriculture activities by local farmers. Having more local farmers enter and participate in the agriculture production sector builds *economies of scale* necessary to offset the opportunity cost that becomes a disincentive for local residents to enter the evolving local agricultural sector. A favorable integrated policy combination on plot rental and irrigation fee and responsible use of pesticides would go a long way in making the local agriculture industry serve the local community, expand the tax base, and increase production for overseas market but would ultimately create the critical mass for a sustainable industry in the long haul.

To be continued.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Urgency to act on CW program

I assume that U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez is fully aware about the urgency to grant an extension on the Commonwealth-only worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, so why is he not doing it yet? Again and again, we cannot over-emphasize the impact of delaying the announcement. It creates an uncertainty not only to the guest workers but also to their family here and back home.

Please stop putting the guest workers under this very stressful situation. They do not at all deserve this.

Irene Tantiado
Thailand

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

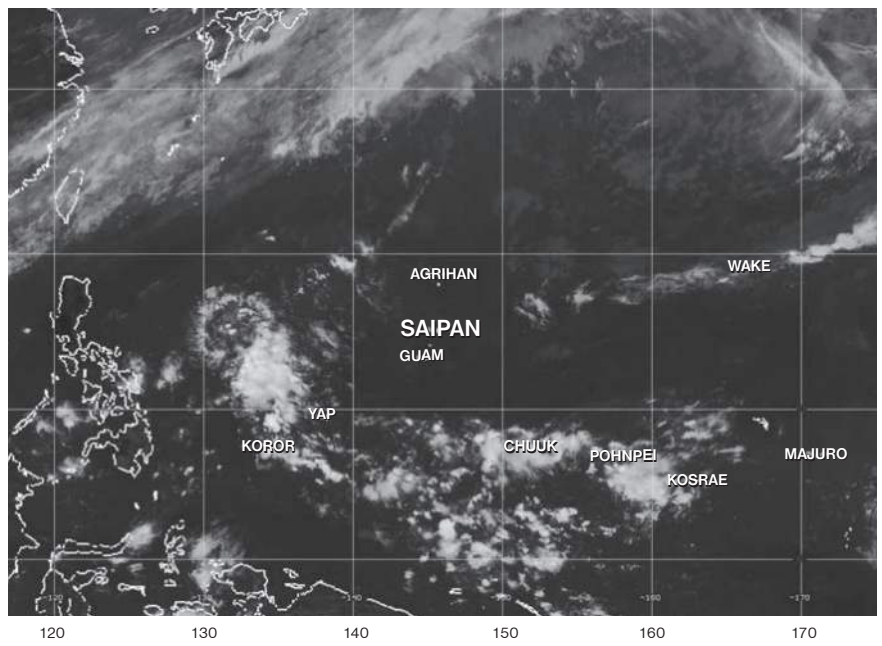
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼82
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼55
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼72
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼47
Osaka	Showers	▲73	▼56
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼49
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼50
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼56
Washington, DC	Showers	▲67	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line heads west-southwestward from 22N180 to end southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 18N152E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Koror, northwest of Yap over Chuuk and just south of Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 14N133E to 7N137E to 5N140E to 7N150E to 6N160E. Similar conditions are present south of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 145E to 155E. A weak circulation is centered east of Butaritari atoll at 3N179E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of a line from 4N174E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:13 PM	12:18 AM
Thursday	1:01 PM	12:58 PM
Friday	1:49 PM	1:37 PM
Saturday	2:37 PM	2:16 AM
Sunday	3:27 PM	2:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Father, son arrested for alleged theft of neighbor's ladder

A father and son were arrested over the weekend for allegedly stealing a neighbor's 28-foot extendable ladder in Lower Navy Hill last month.

Police recovered the ladder near the suspects' house and also seized 24 marijuana plants.

Ramon S. Taman, 54, was arrested for theft and possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). His bail was set at $5,000.

Oliver Joseph Taman, 18, was arrested for theft. He was released on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

Camacho held a bail modification hearing yesterday afternoon for Ramon Taman.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg asked the court to allow Ramon Taman to be released to a third-party custodian upon posting a property bond. The court granted the motion.

»24 marijuana plants seized

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched to a residence in Lower Navy Hill last April 23 after a complainant claimed that their bush cutter worth $400, an extendable ladder worth $350, and metal fruit picker were stolen.

Pangelinan said follow-up investigation led to the identification of Ramon and Oliver Taman as the suspects.

Pangelinan said Ramon Taman first denied stealing the ladder and other items but the son, Oliver, allegedly confessed that his father asked to help him take the ladder.

Pangelinan said Oliver Taman even directed police to where they hid the ladder.

The detective said Ramon Taman then admitted that he asked his son to take the ladder.

As police were searching for the ladder, they found 24 marijuana plants that were planted on the ground near Ramon Taman's house, Pangelinan said.

She said Ramon Taman admitted planting the marijuana.

Saipan Tribune learned that there was a previous court determination in a civil case matter that Oliver Taman is not competent to stand trial. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CDD continues to promote self-advocacy

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@gmail.com
REPORTER

As part of their State Plan for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Council on Developmental Disabilities will continue to promote self-advocacy among affected members of the CNMI public.

According to CDD executive director Pamela Sablan, it is part of the council's training to help participants understand their individual strengths and needs, their goals in life, knowing both their rights and responsibilities, and communicating these to those in a position that can help them make a positive difference in their lives and communities.

Sablan said that they are expanding self-advocacy in the CNMI and that CDD has strategies to achieve this focus this year.

"CDD focuses on building capacity for self-advocacy," Sablan said.

So far, CDD has provided outreach, trainings, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaborations and coordination with programs, barrier elimination, and informing policymakers of the focus on self-advocacy.

According to Sablan's statement on the State Plan, a minimum of 25 self-advocates per year will be educated and trained on regulations and laws of how businesses, schools, and government should be accessible to individuals with developmental disabilities.

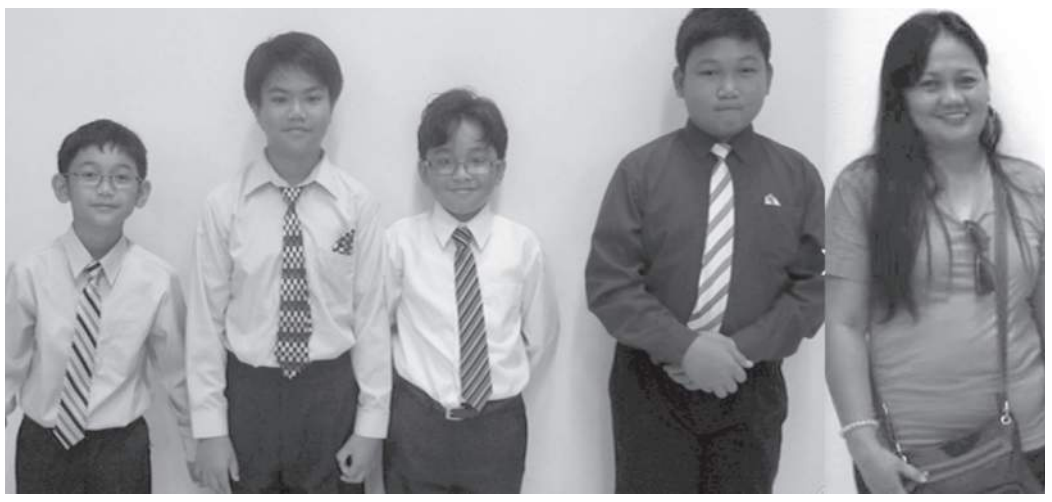
"Feeling confident is important and self-advocacy is speaking out for yourself and taking charge of what you want to do," Sablan said.

CDD has improved on self-advocacy through "needs assessment," working with partners to carry out curriculum review and development and outreach activities, recruiting participants for training, and carrying out training on regulations and laws.

Sablan said that self-advocacy wouldn't focus only on people developmental disabilities but also the community itself.

"We did a self-advocacy workshop this year in April, and we will continue to provide more self-advocacy trainings," Sablan said.

She also noted that besides the self-advocacy focus, other implementations and programs will be provided to the public as well and also more information and necessities to people with developmental disabilities.



CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas International School students Laurence Raeven C. Abad, Vladimir Radge S. Palma, Rohan Nathan N. De Jesus, and Jhino Paolo C. Valiente came in second in the chorale competition of last Saturday's Primary Grades Forensic Conference at the Oleai Elementary School. The group, which was coached by vice principal Rosalie Habijan, performed *The Race* by D.H. Groberg.

House approves fiscal year 2015 budget cap

»Ways and Means sets 12 agency budget hearings

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives adopted Monday a fiscal year 2015 concurrent resolution on the CNMI government's total projected resources of $170 million, of which $134 million is available for appropriations. It also paves the way for House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) to schedule hearings on 12 government agencies' proposed 2015 budget.

House Concurrent Resolution 18-2, authored by Sablan, unanimously passed the House at past 4pm Monday. It was the only measure that the House acted on in Monday afternoon's session, which resumed at 9:30am yesterday.

This comes over a month since Gov. Eloy S. Inos sent his proposed budget to the Legislature on April 1, covering the period from Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015.

The Ways and Means Committee's budget hearings will be from May 7 to 30, each starting at 9am.

The first hearing will be on the Department of Corrections' budget today, May 7. This will be followed by the Department of Public Safety's budget hearing tomorrow, May 8.

Next week's budget hearings will be for the Public School System (May 13), Department of Public Lands (May 14), and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. (May 15).

The following week will be hearings on the agency budgets of the following: Department of Finance (May 20), Department of Lands and Natural Resources (May 21), and Marianas Visitors Authority (May 22).

On the last week of May, the budget hearings will focus on these agencies: Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (May 27), Department of Public Works (May 28), Medical Referral (May 29), and Northern Marianas College (May 30).

Governor signs net fishing law on Tinian

Despite his reservations, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Monday Sen. Frank Cruz's (R-Tinian) bill allowing the use of 1.5-inch net mesh to catch bigeye scad or "atulai" during its seasonal run on Tinian.

Inos said he signed the bill despite his reservations after receiving assurance from the Law Revision Commission that the legal flaw in the bill can be corrected through codification.

Senate Bill 18-29, House Draft 1 is now Public Law 18-48.

"My concern with the bill is that it purports to amend the language of 2 CMC 5631, as amended by Public Law 17-57. However, the language of Public Law 17-57 that this bill seeks to amend was repealed by Public Law 18-32. As a result, Senate Bill 18-29 seeks to amend language that no longer exists. Despite this flaw, the Law Revision Commission has taken the position that Senate Bill 18-29 may still be codified into law by adding new subsection to 2 CMC 5631," the governor said in his transmittal letter.

Under the new law, the use of drag nets (*chenchulun lagua*), surround nets (*chenchulun umesugon*), or trap nets (*chenchulun managam*) with a net mesh size "no smaller than one and one-half inches shall be legal in the waters surrounding the Second Senatorial District when used for non-commercial purposes to catch bigeye scad (atulai) during its seasonal run." ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

MARPAC SPONSORSHIP

MarPac resident mananger Guy Pudney, left, hands over a check to Gold's Gym supervisor Natalie Cruz, center, in sponsorship of Gold's Gym Fitness Challenge. Also in the photo is James Lee, MarPac's beverage sales manager, right. Michelob Ultra is the exclusive beer category sponsor of the Challenge. Other sponsors are PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy, Coca-Cola, Foremost, and Subway. Last year's overall winner was Alfreda Camacho, who is joining again this year. The challenge began Jan. 13 and ended April 28. There are currently 22 participants this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy, happy 10th birthday to our princess, Jamie Ann Mari E. Pambid! Enjoy your special day. God bless you and we love you lots! Greetings come from your brother Roland, Mommy, Mike, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Nino John Paul Palacios! On this special day, as you celebrate your birthday, here's wishing you a whole lot of sweet surprises to come your way today and always. Greetings come from your godson, Zayden Darren Camacho Nekaifes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Cheers to a double celebration! Happy birthday mom/grandma Josephine Sablan Indalecio! May the Lord bless you on your special day! Also, a happy wedding anniversary William and Josephine Indalecio! My the good Lord above blesses and showers you both with many more loving years. We love you both! Love Kim, Eric and Izaiah Blaze.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

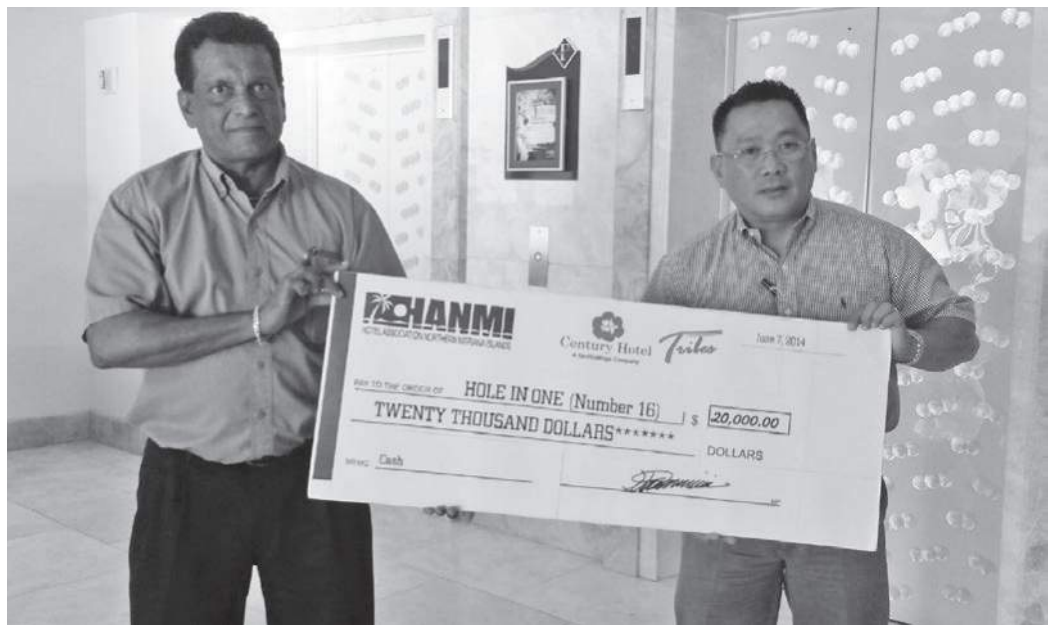
Century Hotel offers $20,000 for HANMI golf tourney

Century Hotel and Tribes Bar are jointly offering $20,000 for a hole-in-one at the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament on June 7, 2014. The donation will be added to earlier hole-in-one sponsorship donations: $20,000 from Bridge Capital, $20,000 from Century Tours, and a 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander from Triple J Motors.

"The sponsorship support we are receiving for this year's tournament is just tremendous, and we are very grateful to Century Tours and Tribes Bar, as well as all our other sponsors," said Tournament Committee chair Steve Balakrishna.

Balakrishna said HANMI is also collaborating with Triple J Motors to offer a second vehicle as a hole-in-one prize.

"To keep things exciting, HANMI is also pleased to sponsor a 2014 Hyundai Elantra as a second vehicle on the course," he said. "Between our hole-in-one prizes on the course and the raffle prizes we have to offer, we aim to make our players happy on June 7."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ivan Quichocho, general manager of Century Hotel and Tribes Bar, right, donates $20,000 as a hole-in-one prize for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament Classic on June 7, 2014. Golf Tournament Committee member Das Krishnan received the donation on April 29, 2014, at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

This year's tournament will be held at Mariana Resort Country Club and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners, and proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

Registration forms are now available at all island golf courses and HANMI hotels. Early bird tournament fee is $105 for payments received by 5pm, June 5. The fee increases to $125 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the evening awards banquet at Pacific Islands Club Saipan on tournament day. For an additional $25, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive. The tournament will start at 7am.

The tournament features six categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors and Ladies. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-6 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 7- 11 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 12-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap 18 and up. Senior Flight is for ages 55 and up.

First place winners of all flights will receive $300, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finishers will receive $200, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel, and third place winners will receive $100, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Winners for the Ladies Flight will be determined using the double peoria handicap system. ***(HANMI)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, left, donates a 2014 Mitsubishi Outlander as a hole-in-one prize for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament Classic on June 7, 2014. From left are Steele; Tournament Committee members Das Krishnan, Kanani Sablan, Steve Balakrishna, and Steve Jang; HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa; and Tournament Committee member Janeeka Atalig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will offer a 2014 Hyundai Elantra as a hole-in-one prize for the 13th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Tournament Classic on June 7, 2014. Pictured from left are Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, Tournament Committee members Das Krishnan, Kanani Sablan, Steve Jang, and Steve Balakrishna; HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa; and Tournament Committee member Janeeka Atalig.

Labor reports on hiring from October to April

The CNMI Department of Labor will begin releasing on a quarterly basis data on available jobs and the number of individuals hired for the quarter. For the reporting period from Oct. 1, 2013, to April 30, 2014, there were 64 individuals hired or 5 percent of the total 1,170 jobs posted by employers. Some 39 percent were new jobs posted, whereas a greater percentage or 56 percent of the jobs posted were for renewals of CW visas.

In its response to U.S. Public Law 110-229, the CNMI Department of Labor recognizes and has increased enforcement and compliance activities of CNMI employment laws that is paramount in order to increase the employment rate of status qualified participants to include continuous collaboration, industry sector focus and delivery of training programs that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI's private sector employers.

The department continues to encourage the CNMI's unemployed and looking for work to register with the department and to update (if already registered) their information online or visit the Employment Services Division for further assistance.

CNMI Administrative Code Chapter 80, Department of Labor Employment Rules and Regulations Section 30.3-400 Job Referral Section 30.3-410 Referral Services provides for a referral service for citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents in the Commonwealth. Section 30.3-430 Employment Referrals provides for each job vacancy announcement referrals to the employer one or more qualified candidates within 10 working days after the job vacancy announcement has been posted. The CNMI Department of Labor closely monitors referral outcomes through the provisions of the regulations provided under Section 30.3-450 Employer Declaration. ***(PR)***

Saipan Community School to host annual Uke Jam!

What do you get when you mix a talented group of kids with the gift of music? The Annual Saipan Community School UKE JAM! This year's free concert on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 7:30pm at the SCS Sanctuary (Beach Road, Susupe) is one you shouldn't miss! Bring the entire family to a sensational musical experience titled "*Uke Jam 14: Happy!,"* which celebrates not only the wonderfully diverse instrument but the dedication and aptitude of Saipan Community School's middle school students.

A longstanding standard at Saipan Community School has been its dedication to the performing arts. The annual Uke Jam provides the opportunity for 11- to 13-year-old students to apply the four basic tenants of music education: music history, theory, performance, and appreciation. SCS' music program is one of the finest on island serving elementary and junior high students.

Established in 1976, Saipan Community School is the oldest Christian school on Saipan. For more information, call 234-6687 or visit its website, www.saipancommunityschool.com. ***(SCS)***

Business

Airlines collecting less money for bag fees

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Airlines are taking in less money from bag fees than they did two years ago, but they are making up for it by adding charges for a slew of extras, including getting a decent seat.

The government reported Monday that U.S. airlines raised $3.35 billion from bag fees in 2013, down 4 percent from 2012. That is the biggest decline since fees to check a bag or two took off in 2008.

Some passengers avoid bag fees—usually $25 to $35 for domestic flights on the biggest airlines—by using airline credit cards or earning elite-level frequent-flier status. Others carry their bag on board and fight for space in the overhead bins.

The bag-fee figure was part of information released by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which said that airlines earned $7.3 billion in the fourth quarter of last year, reversing a loss of $188 million in the same period of 2012.

The airlines also raised $2.81 billion last year from fees for changing a reservation or ticket, a 10 percent increase over 2012. Fees on checked bags, reservation changes and other services have become a larger share of airline revenue and a big reason why the carriers are making money.

Airline revenue from bag fees—much of it for large or overweight bags—was modest during most of the last decade. In 2008, financially strapped American Airlines expanded the fees to checking a regular bag or two, and other carriers soon matched the move. That year, the industry's revenue from bag fees more than doubled, then doubled again the next year, and rose again in 2010.

After a 1 percent decline in 2011, bag-fee revenue peaked at $3.49 billion in 2012 before falling last year. The most recent figures include 16 leading airlines that report the information to the government.

Robert Mann, a former American Airlines executive and now an aviation consultant, said money from bag fees has leveled off because the mix of passengers has changed—by the airlines' design.

AP

In this Dec. 1, 2013 file photo, travelers walk through terminal 3 baggage claim at O'Hare International airport in Chicago.

Target's CEO is out in the wake of big security breach

NEW YORK (AP)—Target's CEO has become the first boss of a major corporation to lose his job over a breach of customer data, showing how responsibility for computer security now reaches right to the top.

Gregg Steinhafel, who was also president and chairman, stepped down nearly five months after Target disclosed a huge pre-Christmas breach in which hackers stole millions of customers' credit- and debit-card records. The theft badly damaged the store chain's reputation and profits.

Steinhafel, a 35-year veteran of the company and chief executive since 2008, also resigned from the board of directors, Target announced Monday.

"He was the public face of the breach. The company struggled to recover from it," said Cynthia Larose, chair of the privacy and security practice at the law firm Mintz Levin. "It's a new era for boards to take a proactive role in understanding what the risks are."

The departure of Steinhafel, 59, suggests the company wants a clean slate as it wrestles with the fallout. But the resignation leaves a leadership hole at a time when the 1,800-store chain is facing many other challenges.

The company, known for its trendy but affordable housewares and fashions, is struggling to maintain its cachet while competing with Wal-Mart and Amazon.com. Target is also grappling with a disappointing expansion into Canada, its first foray outside the U.S.

Coke, Pepsi dropping 'BVO' from all drinks

NEW YORK (AP)—Coca-Cola and PepsiCo said Monday they're working to remove a controversial ingredient from all their drinks, including Mountain Dew, Fanta and Powerade.

The ingredient, called brominated vegetable oil, had been the target of petitions on Change.org by a Mississippi teenager who wanted it out of PepsiCo's Gatorade and Coca-Cola's Powerade. In her petitions, Sarah Kavanagh noted that the ingredient has been patented as a flame retardant and isn't approved for use in Japan and the European Union.

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have stood by the safety of the ingredient, which is used to distribute flavors more evenly in fruit-flavored drinks. But their decisions reflect the pressure companies are facing as people pay closer attention to ingredient labels and try to stick to diets they feel are natural. Several major food makers have recently changed their recipes to remove chemicals or dyes that people find objectionable.

While food companies stress that the ingredients meet regulatory requirements, their decisions reflect how marketing a product as "natural" has become priority and a competitive advantage.

PepsiCo had said last year that it would remove brominated vegetable oil from Gatorade. On Monday, the company said it has since been working to remove it from the rest of its products. PepsiCo also uses BVO in its Mountain Dew and Amp energy drinks.

The company, based in Purchase, New York, didn't provide a timeline for when it expects the removal to be complete.

Brunei's new laws affect sultan's Hollywood ties

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is responding to harsh new laws in the tiny Southeast Asia nation of Brunei by boycotting the Beverly Hills Hotel.

The Motion Picture & Television Fund joined a growing list of organizations and individuals Monday refusing to do business with hotels owned by the sultan or government of Brunei. They're protesting the country's new Islamic Shariah criminal law that calls for punishing adultery, abortions and same-sex relationships with flogging and stoning.

The Motion Picture & Television Fund says it won't hold its annual Night Before the Oscar party at the hotel as it has for many years.

"We cannot condone or tolerate these harsh and repressive laws and as a result support a business owned by the sultan of Brunei or a Brunei sovereign fund associated with the government of Brunei," the fund's directors said in a statement.

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who owns the Beverly Hills Hotel, has praised his country's new laws as a "great achievement."

"The decision to implement the (Shariah penal code) is not for fun but is to obey Allah's command as written in the Quran," the sultan said last week.

Brunei, a conservative country where alcohol is banned and Muslim courts already govern family affairs, began phasing in its version of Shariah that allows for penalties such as amputation for theft and stoning for adultery. Most of the punishments can be applied to non-Muslims, who account for about one-third of the 440,000 people in the oil-rich country.

The most severe punishments—flogging, amputation and stoning—are to be introduced over the next two years.

Others boycotting the Sultan's Dorchester Collection of hotels include Richard Branson's Virgin Group; the Hollywood Reporter, which traditionally holds a starry media breakfast at the Beverly Hills Hotel; and the Feminist Majority Foundation, which moved its annual Global Women's Rights Awards on Monday from the Beverly Hills Hotel to the nearby Hammer Museum.

Branson tweeted over the weekend that no member of his staff would stay at any Dorchester Collection hotel "until the Sultan abides by basic human rights."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,530.55	1,884.66	4,138.06
+17.66	+3.52	+14.16
0.11%	0.19%	0.34%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0767	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7517	Philippine Peso	44.3656
British Pound	0.5917	Indian Rupee	60.1527	Singapore Dollar	1.2499
Canadian Dollar	1.0948	Indonesian Rupiah	11520.8	South Korean Won	1025.95
Chinese Yuan	6.2309	Japanese Yen	102.03	Swiss Franc	0.8777
Euro	0.7203	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2579	Taiwan Dollar	30.1235
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1474	Thailand Baht	32.3468

Nation

High court ruling favors prayer at council meeting

WASHINGTON (AP)—A narrowly divided Supreme Court upheld decidedly Christian prayers at the start of local council meetings on Monday, declaring them in line with long national traditions though the country has grown more religiously diverse.

The content of the prayers is not significant as long as they do not denigrate non-Christians or try to win converts, the court said in a 5-4 decision backed by its conservative majority.

Though the decision split the court along ideological lines, the Obama administration backed the winning side, the town of Greece, N.Y., outside of Rochester.

The outcome relied heavily on a 1983 decision in which the court upheld an opening prayer in the Nebraska Legislature and said prayer is part of the nation's fabric, not a violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion.

Writing for the court on Monday, Justice Anthony Kennedy said that forcing clergy to scrub the prayers of references to Jesus Christ and other sectarian religious figures would turn officials into censors. Instead, Kennedy said, the prayers should be seen as ceremonial and in keeping with the nation's traditions.

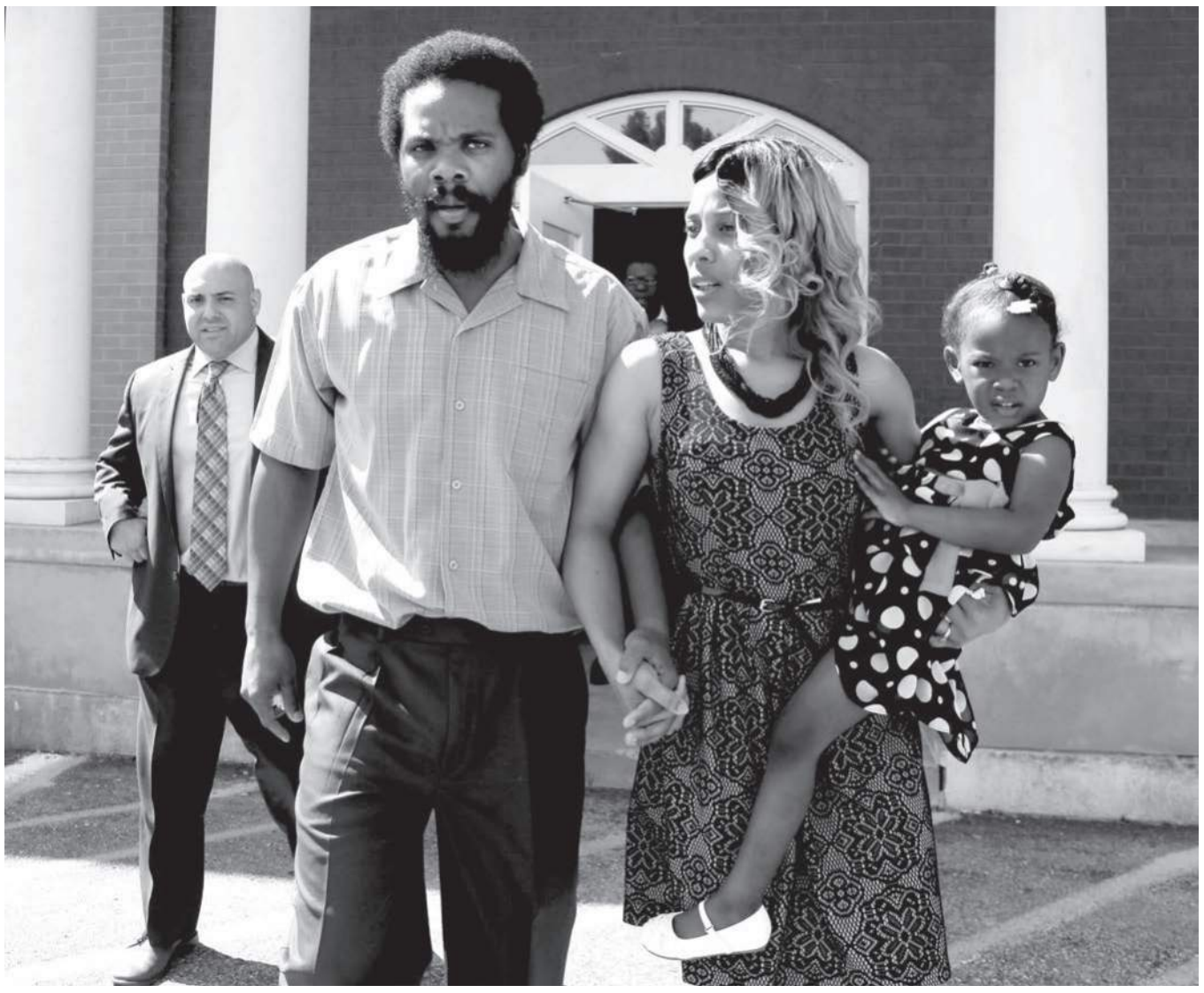
"The inclusion of a brief, ceremonial prayer as part of a larger exercise in civic recognition suggests that its purpose and effect are to acknowledge religious leaders and the institutions they represent, rather than to exclude or coerce nonbelievers," Kennedy said.

Justice Elena Kagan, writing for the court's four liberal justices, said, "I respectfully dissent from the court's opinion because I think the Town of Greece's prayer practices violate that norm of religious equality—the breathtakingly generous constitutional idea that our public institutions belong no less to the Buddhist or Hindu than to the Methodist or Episcopalian."

Kagan said the case differs significantly from the 1983 decision because "Greece's town meetings involve participation by ordinary citizens, and the invocations given—directly to those citizens—were predominantly sectarian in content."

Kennedy himself was the author of an opinion in 1992 that held that a Christian prayer delivered at a high school graduation did violate the Constitution.

Man freed in Missouri delayed imprisonment case



AP

Cornealious "Mike" Anderson walks out of the Mississippi County Courthouse along with his wife, LaQonna Anderson, daughter Nevaeh, 3, and attorney Patrick Megaro, far left, after being released from custody, Monday, May 5, 2014, in Charleston, Mo.

CHARLESTON, Mo. (AP)—Cornealious "Mike" Anderson spent 13 years free from prison due to a clerical error, then nearly a year behind bars when the mistake was caught. On Monday, he walked out of a southeast Missouri courtroom a free man again—this time with no need to look over his shoulder.

Mississippi County Associate Circuit Judge Terry Lynn Brown needed just a 10-minute hearing before ruling that he was giving Anderson credit for time served for all 4,794 days between his conviction and when he was arrested last year. The judge granted Anderson his immediate freedom.

Anderson, 37, left the courthouse with his wife and 3-year-old daughter on one arm, his grandmother on the other, tears in all of their eyes.

"Very happy," Anderson said as he climbed into a sport utility vehicle for the ride home to suburban St. Louis and a planned family celebration. "My faith has always been in God. I'm just so thankful. I just thank God for everybody."

Anderson was 23 when he was sentenced to 13 years in prison for his role in the robbery of a fast-food restaurant's assistant manager. He told The Associated Press last month that he waited, and even asked about going to prison, but the order never came.

In the years since his conviction, Anderson started his own construction-related businesses, married and had children. He also coached youth football and volunteered at his church in Webster Groves, Missouri.

At the hearing Monday, Anderson's attorney, Patrick Megaro, said Anderson remained out of prison through no fault of his own, and in the intervening years, turned his life around.

"He has been able to accomplish for himself what the criminal justice system does not accomplish in many situations," Megaro told the judge.

Brown agreed. He pointed out that Anderson's crime was serious, but acknowledged that he's a far different man now than he was then.

"You've been a good father," Brown said. "You've been a good husband. You've been a good taxpaying citizen of the state of Missouri.

"That leads me to believe that you are a good man and a changed man."

As the judge announced his decision, about 10 of Anderson's relatives broke out in sobs and cried. Some hugged and thanked God.

Anderson's plight drew international headlines last month. An online petition on change.org includes more than 35,000 signatures urging the state to set him free.

The release was met with virtually no resistance from the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Assistant Attorney General Michael Spillane told Brown the court should consider the seriousness of Anderson's crime, but also Anderson's behavior over the 13 years of his freedom and the impact that imprisonment would have on his family.

Attorney General Chris Koster said in a statement, "From the outset, I have proposed a solution that balances the seriousness of Mr. Anderson's crime with the mistake made by the criminal justice system and Mr. Anderson's lack of a criminal record over the past 13 years. Today's outcome appears to appropriately balance the facts as we understand them."

The judge said that rather than grant parole, Anderson would get credit for the entirety of the time he should have been in prison. The distinction is important because it means Anderson doesn't have to report to a parole agent.

Megaro lauded the state's understanding of an occurrence that is exceedingly rare.

"This was not an easy case," Megaro said. "I believe it teaches us that justice can be swift, justice can be harsh, but justice also can be merciful."

Clip suspected in circus accident; 8 hospitalized

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Investigators suspect that a snapped clip sent eight aerial acrobats plummeting 20 feet or more during a daring act in which performers dangle from their hair. One injured performer told her father she didn't notice anything amiss before her "plunge into darkness."

The clip, a common type called a carabiner that's used for everything from rock climbing to holding keyrings, was one of several pieces at the top of a chandelier-like apparatus that suspended the performers, fire officials said. After the accident, the 4- to 5-inch steel clip was found in three pieces on the ground with its spine snapped.

Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare stopped short of saying the carabiner caused Sunday's accident at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey circus, witnessed by about 3,900 people, many of them children. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is trying to make a final determination.

"We don't know if it was metal fatigue, if it wasn't properly positioned or something else," Pare said. "We just don't know."

All eight of the acrobats were still hospitalized with injuries including a pierced liver and neck and back fractures, as well as head injuries. None of the injuries appear to be life-threatening, said Stephen Payne, a spokesman for Feld Entertainment, Ringling's parent company. The last two acrobats in critical condition were upgraded to serious condition Monday night. Four of the acrobats were in good condition and four in serious.

One dead in Oklahoma wildfire

By KRISTI EATON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUTHRIE, Okla. (AP)—Residents in an Oklahoma community where a wildfire killed one person, burned thousands of acres and destroyed at least six homes returned to survey the damage Monday as firefighters continued to battle the stubborn blaze.

The fire in Guthrie, about 35 miles north of Oklahoma City, went awry Sunday and swept through the parched countryside with wind gusts at 31 mph. Fire officials said Monday afternoon that the blaze was about 75 percent contained and they are investigating to determine whether any criminal conduct occurred when it was set. A burn ban was not in place at the time.

Forecasters say the fire danger will get worse before it gets better, though, with the weather to stay hot and windy. Temperatures are to reach 100 on Tuesday with daytime wind gusts to steadily grow stronger.

Authorities said the man who died in the fire Sunday night had refused to leave his mobile home. Guthrie Fire Chief Eric Harlow said 37 firefighters have been treated for heat-related issues.

A firefighter was struck in the chest when ammunition went off inside a structure, although it's not clear what hit him, said Stan May, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Incident Management Team. The firefighter was treated at a hospital and released, May said.

Asia

US, Filipino troops begin large military drill

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—More than 5,000 U.S. and Filipino troops began two weeks of military exercises Monday to prepare to jointly deal with any potential crisis in the Philippines, which is prone to natural disasters and has been locked in a dangerous territorial standoff with China.

U.S. and Philippine military officials said at an opening ceremony that 3,000 Filipino soldiers and 2,500 American military personnel would take part in the annual "Balikatan," or shoulder to shoulder, exercises, the largest of several military drills the allies stage each year.

American and Philippine officials said the maneuvers would focus on maritime security and disaster response, but avoided linking the war games with their concern over China, which they have criticized for its increasingly assertive behavior in disputed South China Sea territories.

The Philippines, the oldest of Washington's five defense treaty allies in Asia, has turned to the U.S. to modernize its ill-equipped military amid the increasingly tense territorial rifts with China.

Dozens of left-wing activists protested outside the main military camp in the Philippine capital, Manila, where the opening ceremony was held. They said the drills and a recently signed agreement that allows a larger U.S. military presence in the country would violate the Philippine Constitution, which prohibits foreign troops except when their presence is covered by a treaty.

Australia deployed 65 army soldiers and air force personnel to participate in live-fire maneuvers and charity activities. It also deployed a P3 Orion aircraft for a surveillance exercise with U.S. and Philippine military counterparts, Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Nicholas Pratt said.

Australia has signed an agreement with the Philippines that allows its forces to hold military exercises with Filipino troops in the country, the only other such pact Manila has signed aside from the United States.

AP

From left, U.S. Marine Col. John A. Rutherford, Philippines Defense Chief Voltaire Gazmin, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg and Philippine Armed Forces Chief Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, link arms following the opening ceremony of the joint U.S.-Philippines military exercise dubbed Balikatan 2014 (Shoulder-to-Shoulder) Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters at suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the exercises would strengthen the countries' capability to deal with increasing tensions "due to excessive and expansive maritime and territorial claims" and "aggressive patterns of behavior" that threaten regional peace and stability.

The exercises will be held in military camps in the northern and western Philippines, including in Zambales and Palawan provinces on the edge of the South China Sea. The maneuvers will include maritime surveillance exercises, live-fire drills, training on handling bombs and "mass casualty response," a Philippine military statement said.

China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims in potentially oil- and gas-rich areas in the busy South China Sea, with Beijing laying claim to virtually the entire body of water.

The territorial spats between Beijing and Manila have worsened after Chinese government ships effectively gained control of the disputed Scarborough Shoal in 2012 then blockaded the Second Thomas Shoal, where Philippine marines have been based on a grounded navy ship since 1999.

Chinese coast guard ships have twice attempted to block Philippine ships bringing in food and fresh batches of marines to Second Thomas Shoal, increasing tensions. A Philippine military plane dropped food supplies and letters from Filipino supporters to the marines marooned at the Second Thomas Shoal over the weekend.

Civilian diver dies in South Korea ferry searches

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A civilian diver involved in searches for dozens of missing people from the South Korean ferry disaster died Tuesday, as other divers helped by better weather and easing ocean currents were picking up efforts to retrieve more bodies from the sunken ship.

The *Sewol* carried 476 people, most of them students from a single high school near Seoul, when it sank off South Korea's southern coast on April 16. Only 174 survived, including 22 of the 29 crewmembers. The sinking left more than 260 people dead, with about 40 others still missing.

On Tuesday, one civilian diver died at a hospital after becoming unconscious, government task force spokesman Ko Myung-seok said in a statement. He is the first fatality among divers mobilized following the ferry's sinking, according to the coast guard.

The 53-year-old diver was pulled to the surface by fellow divers after losing communication about five minutes after he began underwater searches, Ko said. It was his first search attempt, Ko added.

Despite his death, divers are continuing their searches Tuesday with the authorities believing most of the remaining missing people are in 64 of the ship's 111 areas. Ko said divers have searched all those 64 areas at least once and plan to revisit them again to look for more victims.

Darkness, floating debris and the maze of corridors and cabins onboard have made the search difficult, and divers entered the last three unopened areas on Monday night, Ko said.

Investigators have also made their first arrests of people who were not on board the Sewol when it sank. The three people arrested on Friday and Sunday are suspected of negligence in their handling of cargo on the vessel, according to prosecutors.

In all, 19 people have been arrested in the investigation, 15 of them crew members accused of abandoning passengers. An executive with ties to Chonghaejin, the company that owns the ferry, was detained on suspicion of malpractice related to company finances.

Improper stowage and overloading of cargo is suspected as a possible reason the ferry sank. The ferry was carrying an estimated 3,608 tons of cargo, more than three times what it could safely carry. A ferry loaded too heavily could lose its balance making even a small turn.

The sinking has caused a national grief. As of Sunday 1.1 million people had paid respects at 131 memorial altars around the nation, according to a governmental funeral support committee set up for the ferry victims. Tuesday was a national holiday in South Korea for Buddha's Birthday, and more people are expected to visit those mourning stations.

Monday was also a holiday for Children's Day, but various events were canceled or postponed because of the ferry's sinking. The Sejong Center for the Performing Arts, run by the Seoul city office, canceled a handful of outdoor events and music festivals on the holiday.

Quake cracks roads in north Thailand, 1 killed

BANGKOK (AP)—Officials said Tuesday that one person was killed and several dozen were hurt in an earthquake that struck northern Thailand and Myanmar a day earlier, smashing windows, cracking walls and roads and damaging Buddhist temples.

The airport in Chiang Rai, a northern Thai city near the epicenter of the shallow magnitude 6.3 temblor, evacuated people from its terminal, where display signs and pieces of the ceiling fell. There was no damage to the runway or flight disruptions, airport General Manager Damrong Klongakara said.

A well-known temple near the city, the all-white Wat Rongkhun, was closed due to safety concerns after the earthquake.

"The spire of the main building came off and the tiles on the roof fell off," Chalermchai Kositpiphat, the artist who designed the temple, told Nation TV. "I still don't know how we can sleep tonight. ... It was shaking the whole time and then aftershocks followed four to five times."

Anusorn Kaewkangwan, the deputy director-general of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department told The Associated Press on Tuesday that an 83-year-old woman in Chiang Rai's Mae Lao district was killed when the brick walls of her house collapsed onto her during the quake.

Anusorn said about 25 people were slightly injured, mostly from fallen ceilings or items in their houses.

Thailand's Meteorological Department said the quake was magnitude 6.3. The U.S. Geological Survey measured it at 6.0 and said the epicenter was 9 kilometers (6 miles) south of Mae Lao and 27 kilometers (17 miles) southwest of Chiang Rai. Its depth was a relatively shallow 7.4 kilometers (4.6 miles). Shallow quakes often cause more damage.

Southeast Asia is seismically active and quakes are often felt in surrounding nations. Thailand has several faults, though in recent times quakes centered in the country have been less severe than those in other Southeast Asian nations, such as Myanmar and Indonesia.

A 9.1-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island on Dec. 26, 2004, triggered an Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 8,000 people in Thailand's coastal areas, among its overall death toll of 240,000.

The last earthquake in Thailand approaching the size of Monday's quake registered magnitude 5.1 on Dec. 13, 2006, in Chiang Mai province.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 injured in hacking attack at Chinese station

BEIJING (AP)—A hacking attack at one of China's busiest train stations Tuesday left six people injured, police said. The incident happened late morning at the Guangzhou Railway Station in southern Guangdong province, the city's police said on their microblog. Police arrived on scene as passengers were being hacked, and officers shot and subdued a male suspect who had a knife after he failed to respond to a police warning, the statement said. It wasn't clear from the statement whether there was more than one attacker. The Guangzhou Daily cited witnesses as saying there were four attackers. No possible motive for the attack was given. Police said six people were injured and taken to a hospital, not including the suspect.

Survivors struggle after Afghan slide

ABI BARIK, Afghanistan (AP)—Three days after the earth swept through his village, burying entire houses and hundreds of people, Hashmat Khan is still digging in search of his family. Standing in a hole he'd dug out that reached over his head, Khan said six members of his family were buried in the horrific landslide that swept over the village of Abi Barik in Badakhshan province. "We have rescued two injured and taken out two dead bodies, and now we're trying to find two more," he said. The landslide Friday killed hundreds of people—still no one has an exact number—and destroyed 300 homes and displaced hundreds more families.

New Zealand offers cash for move to quake city

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Unemployed New Zealanders are being offered cash to move to the earthquake-damaged city of Christchurch and join in the rebuilding effort. The government on Tuesday announced it would pay welfare recipients 3,000 New Zealand dollars ($2,600) to move to the city if they found any kind of fulltime work there. Christchurch has been rebuilding after a 2011 quake killed 185 people and destroyed much of its downtown.

World

UN: Spread of polio now a world health emergency

LONDON (AP)—For the first time ever, the World Health Organization on Monday declared the spread of polio an international public health emergency that could grow in the next few months and unravel the nearly three-decade effort to eradicate the crippling disease.

The agency described current polio outbreaks across at least 10 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as an "extraordinary event" that required a coordinated international response. It identified Pakistan, Syria and Cameroon as having allowed the virus to spread beyond their borders, and recommended that those three governments require citizens to obtain a certificate proving they have been vaccinated for polio before traveling abroad.

"Until it is eradicated, polio will continue to spread internationally, find and paralyze susceptible kids," Dr. Bruce Aylward, who leads WHO's polio efforts, said during a press briefing.

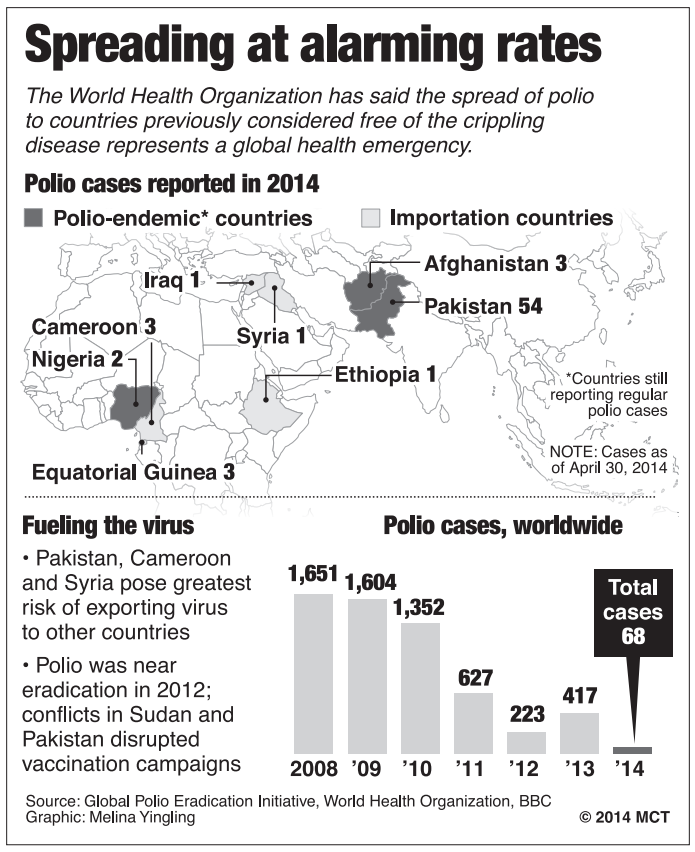
Critics, however, questioned whether Monday's announcement would make much of a difference, given the limits faced by governments confronting not only polio but armed insurrection and widespread poverty.

"What happens when you continue whipping a horse to go ever faster, no matter how rapidly he is already running?" said Dr. Donald A. Henderson, who led the WHO's initiative to get rid of smallpox, the only human disease ever to have been eradicated.

The WHO has never before issued an international alert on polio, a disease that usually strikes children under 5 and is most often spread through infected water. There is no specific cure, but several vaccines exist.

Experts are particularly concerned that polio is re-emerging in countries previously free of the disease, such as Syria, Somalia and Iraq, where civil war or unrest now complicates efforts to contain the virus. It is happening during the traditionally low season for the spread of polio, leaving experts worried that cases could spike as the weather becomes warmer and wetter in the coming months across the northern hemisphere.

The vast majority of new cases are in Pakistan, a country which an independent monitoring board set up by the WHO has called "a powder keg that could ignite widespread polio transmission."


Spreading at alarming rates
The World Health Organization has said the spread of polio to countries previously considered free of the crippling disease represents a global health emergency.
Polio cases reported in 2014
Polio-endemic* countries
Importation countries
Afghanistan 3
Iraq 1
Pakistan 54
Cameroon 3
Syria 1
Nigeria 2
Ethiopia 1
*Countries still reporting regular polio cases
NOTE: Cases as of April 30, 2014
Equatorial Guinea 3
Fueling the virus
• Pakistan, Cameroon and Syria pose greatest risk of exporting virus to other countries
• Polio was near eradication in 2012; conflicts in Sudan and Pakistan disrupted vaccination campaigns
Polio cases, worldwide
1,651
1,604
1,352
627
223
417
Total cases 68
2008 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14
Source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative, World Health Organization, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2014 MCT

Dozens of polio workers have been killed over the last two years in Pakistan, where militants accuse them of spying for the U.S. government. Those suspicions stem at least partly from the disclosure that the CIA used a Pakistani doctor to uncover Osama bin Laden's hideout by trying to get blood samples from his family under the guise of a hepatitis vaccination program. U.S. commandos killed the al-Qaida leader in May 2011 in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad.

At the end of last month, there were 68 confirmed polio cases worldwide, compared with just 24 at the same time last year. In 2013, polio reappeared in Syria, sparking fears the civil war there could ignite a wider outbreak as refugees flee to other countries across the region. The virus has also been identified in the sewage system in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, although no cases have been spotted.

In February, the WHO found that polio had also returned to Iraq, where it spread from neighboring Syria. It is also circulating in Afghanistan (where it spread from Pakistan) and Equatorial Guinea (from neighboring Cameroon) as well as Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Officials also worry countries torn by conflict, such as Ukraine, Sudan and the Central African Republic, are rife for polio reinfection.

Some critics say it may even be time to accept that polio may not be eradicated, since the deadline to wipe out the disease has already been missed several times. The ongoing effort costs about $1 billion a year.

"For the past two years, problems have steadily, and now rapidly mounted," Henderson said in an email. "It is becoming apparent that there are too many problems (for the polio eradication effort) to overcome, however many resources are assigned."

Henderson and others have suggested the extraordinary efforts needed for polio eradication might be better spent on other health programs, including routine vaccination programs for childhood diseases. But he conceded that transitioning to a control program would be difficult. "If not eradication, how does one accomplish a `soft landing' which could sustain the global program on immunization?" Henderson said.

Aylward said the WHO and its partners, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aren't yet considering pushing back their latest deadline to eradicate polio by 2018.

CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden said the reemergence and spread of polio out of Pakistan, Cameroon and Syria pose "a serious threat to our ability to eradicate polio."

"Conflicts in many areas where polio is circulating are hampering efforts to vaccinate but success remains within reach," Frieden said.

Ukraine sends elite force to Odessa due to unrest

ODESSA, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine sent an elite national guard unit to its southern port of Odessa, desperate to halt a spread of the fighting between government troops and a pro-Russia militia in the east that killed combatants on both sides Monday.

The government in Kiev intensified its attempts to bring both regions back under its control, but seemed particularly alarmed by the bloodshed in Odessa. It had been largely peaceful until Friday, when clashes killed 46 people, many of them in a government building that was set on fire.

The tensions in Ukraine also raised concerns in neighboring Moldova, another former Soviet republic, where the government said late Monday it had put its borders on alert. Moldova's breakaway Trans-Dniester region, located just northwest of Odessa and home to 1,500 Russian troops, is supported by Moscow, and many of its residents sympathize with the pro-Russia insurgency.

The loss of Odessa—in addition to a swath of industrial eastern Ukraine—would be catastrophic for the interim government in Kiev, leaving the country cut off from the Black Sea. Ukraine already lost a significant part of its coastline in March, when its Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russia.

Compared with eastern Ukraine, Odessa is a wealthy city with an educated and ethnically diverse population of more than 1 million. Jews still make up 12 percent of the population of the city, which once had a large Jewish community.

"The people of Odessa are well-educated and understand perfectly well that Russia is sowing the seeds of civil war and destabilization in Ukraine," said Vladimir Kureichik, a 52-year-old literature teacher who left Crimea after it became part of Russia.

The White House said it was "extremely concerned" by the violence in southern Ukraine.

"The events in Odessa dramatically underscore the need for an immediate de-escalation of tensions in Ukraine," said spokesman Jay Carney. He suggested Russia still must follow through with its part of a diplomatic deal aimed at defusing the tensions.

In eastern Ukraine, gunfire and multiple explosions rang out in and around Slovyansk, a city of 125,000 in the Russian-speaking heartland that has become the focus of the armed insurgency against the government in Kiev.

The Russian Foreign Ministry put the blame squarely on Kiev, which "stubbornly continues to wage war against the people of its own country." The ministry urged what it called the "Kiev organizers of the terror" to pull back the troops and hold peaceful negotiations to resolve the crisis.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said in a statement that government troops were battling about 800 pro-Russia forces, which were deploying large-caliber weapons and mortars. His ministry reported four officers killed and 30 wounded in the fighting.

The pro-Russia militia said at least eight people, both militiamen and local residents, were killed. A spokesman with the militia said that out of 10 people admitted to a hospital in Slovyansk with gunshot wounds, three later died. Five more were killed in fighting in the village of Semenivka.

Both sides indicated fighting was taking place at several sites. An Associated Press crew saw at least four ambulances rushing wounded to a hospital in Slovyansk and one militiaman being carried in for treatment.

Nigeria group threatens to sell kidnapped girls

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's Islamic extremist leader is threatening to sell the nearly 300 teenage schoolgirls abducted from a school in the remote northeast three weeks ago, in a new videotape received Monday.

Abubakar Shekau for the first time also claimed responsibility for the April 15 mass abduction, warning that his group plans to attack more schools and abduct more girls.

"I abducted your girls," said the leader of Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sinful."

He described the girls as "slaves" and said, "By Allah, I will sell them in the marketplace." The hourlong video starts with fighters lifting automatic rifles and shooting in the air as they chant "Allahu akbar!" or "God is great."

It was unclear if the video was made before or after reports emerged last week that some of the girls have been forced to marry their abductors—who paid a nominal bride price of $12—and that others have been carried into neighboring Cameroon and Chad. Those reports could not be verified.

In the video, Shekau also said the students "will remain slaves with us." That appears a reference to the ancient jihadi custom of enslaving women captured in a holy war, who then can be used for sex.

"They are slaves and I will sell them because I have the market to sell them," he said, speaking in the Hausa language of northern Nigeria.

The video was reviewed by The Associated Press, and both the face and the voice of the leader of Boko Haram were recognizable.

Shekau brushed off warnings that the abductions could be an international crime, saying in English, as if to reach his accusers in the international community: "What do you know about human rights? You're just claiming human rights (abuses), but you don't know what it is."

An intermediary who has said Boko Haram is ready to negotiate ransoms for the girls also said two of the girls have died of snakebite and about 20 are ill.

WORLD BRIEFS

Greece: Smuggling boats capsize, 22 migrants drown

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—At least 22 people—including families trapped in a flooded cabin—drowned when a yacht and a dinghy crammed with migrants trying to slip into Greece capsized Monday in the eastern Aegean Sea, authorities said. Rescue teams led a search for up to seven more people missing, in what was one of the deadliest migrant boat accidents in Greek waters in recent years and the third fatal one this year. Many on board were from war-torn or unstable countries in the Middle East and Africa. The vessels overturned before dawn off the island of Samos, a favorite destination for migrant-smuggling gangs because it's close to the Turkish coast. The Greek coast guard said it was not immediately clear what caused the overloaded craft to capsize.

Egypt's el-Sissi: Brotherhood will not return

CAIRO (AP)—Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the former military chief who removed Egypt's Islamist president and who is now poised to win the post in elections this month, said the Muslim Brotherhood will never return as an organization, accusing it of using militant groups as cover to destabilize the country. El-Sissi spoke in the first TV interview of his campaign, aired Monday, vowing that restoring stability and bringing development were his priorities. The comments were a seemingly unequivocal rejection of any political reconciliation with the Brotherhood, which was Egypt's most powerful political force until el-Sissi removed President Mohammed Morsi, a member of the group, last summer. Since ousting Morsi, el-Sissi has been riding an overwhelming media frenzy lauding him as Egypt's savior, and his status as the country's strongest figure all but guarantees him a victory in the May 26-27 election. El-Sissi's only opponent in the race is leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, the third-place finisher in the 2012 election won by Morsi.

Campus Life

Schools seek changes to healthier lunch rules

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Tuesday, April 29, 2014 photo, Biden Arias-Romers, 5, left, and Nathaniel Cossio-Boatwright, 6, eat lunch at the Patrick Henry Elementary School in Alexandria, Va.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—Becky Domokos-Bays of Alexandria City Public Schools has served her students whole-grain pasta 20 times. Each time, she said, they rejected it.

Starting next school year, pasta and other grain products in schools will have to be whole-grain rich, or more than half whole grain. That includes rolls, biscuits, pizza crust, tortillas and even grits.

The requirement is part of a government effort to make school lunches and breakfasts healthier. Championed by first lady Michelle Obama, the new standards have been phased in over the last two school years, with more changes coming in 2014.

Some schools say the changes have been expensive and difficult to put in place, and school officials are asking Congress and the Agriculture Department to roll back some of the requirements. Their main concerns: finding enough whole grain-rich foods that kids like, lowering sodium levels and keeping fruits and vegetables from ending up in the trash.

In interviews, school nutrition directors across the country mostly agreed that healthy changes were needed in school lunches—long famous for daily servings of greasy fries and pizza. Kids have adapted easily to many of the changes, are getting more variety in the lunch line and are eating healthier. USDA says more than 90 percent of schools are meeting the standards.

But Domokos-Bays and other school nutrition directors say they would like to see some revisions. They say the standards were put in place too quickly as kids get used to new tastes and school lunch vendors rush to reformulate their foods. When kids don't buy lunch, or throw it away, it costs the schools precious dollars.

"The regulations are so prescriptive, so it's difficult to manage not only the nutrition side of your businesses but the business side of your business," Domokos-Bays said.

Schools don't have to follow the requirements, but most do—if they don't, they won't receive government subsidies reimbursing them for free and low cost lunches for low-income kids.

Some of the main challenges reported by school nutrition directors:

■ Whole grains. While many kids have adapted to whole grain rolls, breads and even pizza crusts, some schools are having problems with whole grain-rich pastas, which can cook differently. USDA's Janey Thornton, a former school nutrition director, says the government is working with the food industry to develop better pastas.

■ Whole grains have also proved a hard sell for some popular regional items, like biscuits and grits in the South. Lyman Graham of the Roswell, New Mexico, school district says tortillas are one of the most popular foods in his area, but the whole wheat flour versions are "going in the trash."

■ Sodium. Schools will have to lower the total sodium levels in school meals next school year and then will have to lower them even further by 2017.

■ School lunch directors say the 2017 target—935 milligrams total in an elementary school lunch and 1,080 milligrams in a high school lunch—isn't feasible and say kids will reject the foods. USDA's Thornton acknowledges the food industry isn't there yet but encourages frustrated school lunch directors to "worry about today first before we imagine the worst down the road."

■ Fruits and vegetables. The standards require every student to take a fruit or vegetable to create a balanced plate. The reaction among students has been mixed. "If the kids don't eat the food, then all I have is healthy trash cans," said Peggy Lawrence, director of nutrition at Georgia's Rockdale County Public Schools.

■ Healthier snacks. Schools will for the first time this year have to make sure that all foods, including vending machines and a la carte lines, meet healthier standards. While many schools have already moved to make snacks healthier, others depend on snack money to help operate their lunchrooms and are worried about a sales dip.

The School Nutrition Association has asked Congress and USDA to only require that 50 percent of foods be whole grain-rich, to suspend the 2017 sodium requirements and to stop requiring students to take a fruit or vegetable.

Margo Wootan, a nutrition lobbyist for the Center for Science in the Public Interest who has pushed for healthier meals, says relaxing those standards could gut the program. "You can't call a meal a meal without a fruit or vegetable," she said.

USDA has shown some flexibility already: In 2012, the department scrapped maximums on proteins and grains after students complained they were hungry.

USDA's Thornton says problems will lessen as the food industry creates healthier products. "I'll bet that five or seven years down the road, we'll see kids eating healthy food and we'll see acceptance," she said.

Republicans who have complained of government overreach say they may intervene before then. Alabama Rep. Robert Aderholt, the Republican House chairman of the spending committee overseeing USDA, has said school districts need a "pause" while problems are worked out.

Aderholt's panel is expected to release a new spending bill this month that may propose changes. Republicans also are eying the next five-year renewal of the school foods policy, due in 2015.

Sam Kass, senior policy adviser for nutrition at the White House, said last month that there have been "tremendous gains" in school foods and said he finds efforts to undermine that disappointing. "First and foremost, the key is not going back," he said.

At Alexandria's Patrick Henry Elementary last Tuesday, students said they loved their lunches and gobbled up plump strawberries. Kindergartner Jade Kennedy said she recently tried kiwi at school for the first time.

But Domokos-Bays said she will serve white pasta to the students until she has to make the change this summer. Tuesday was pasta day, and several children said it was their favorite lunch—"better than my mom made," first-grader Ruth Gebregiorgis said.

Saipan resident named

BINGHAMTON, NY—Min-Hee Lee of Saipan received academic honors from the Harpur College of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University by making the University's Dean's List for the fall 2013 semester.

Binghamton University is one of the four university centers of the State University of New York. Known for the excellence of its students, faculty, staff and programs, Binghamton enrolls close to 15,000 students in programs leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Its curriculum, founded in the liberal arts, has expanded to include selected professional and graduate programs. (PR)

STUDENT LIFE

SIS alumnus Pellegrino: Do what you love to do

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School 2013 alumnus Abel Pellegrino said he feels the gift of music should be shared. The 18-year-old student currently studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and plans to major in Audio Engineering.

He told *Saipan Tribune* in an email that his father, the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino, "instilled a drive that will always stay with me.

"He has inspired me to pursue what I love doing. I will follow in his footsteps in the sense that I will do what I love to do," he said.

Pellegrino's ultimate goal after completing his studies is to make, produce, write, and perform music. "It's what I think I'm best at and I love doing it. I would want to do it for the rest of my life."

He plays the guitar, sings, and draws his musical inspiration from artists like Billy Joel and Frank Ocean.

His passion for music began when has was 12-years-old and picked up a guitar.

Pellegrino

While residing on Saipan, Pellegrino's covers of famous songs and music could be heard every week at the Garapan Street Market. The Saipan native also used to put on shows for tourists for two years on the Sunset Cruise to Mañagaha Island on the weekends.

"I feel like the gift of music needs to be shared," he said.

Pellegrino also plans to enroll in a few classes at Hawaii Community College, where he can produce his own sounds at some of the best production studios on the island.

The former Saipan resident said he hopes to return to Saipan one day to visit. "I want to graduate and move to California or maybe just stay in Hawaii. I feel like there are even more opportunities in the mainland."

At the end of the day, he urges Saipan youth to "do what makes you happy.

"Bottom of the line, be passionate in what you choose to do. You are your own leader in the end, and people will be interested in anyone with a great attitude. I choose to play music because I have a love for it that never ceases to stop changing. Music personifies a person, fabricates a mood, and adds emotional theme to life in general. It spins an ineffable amount of joy to write and perform, anywhere. It's taught me how to be me."

Life & Style

Michelle Obama inaugurates new Met Museum's costume center

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama, one of the more fashion-conscious first ladies in decades, joined a host of fashion luminaries Monday as she cut the ribbon at the Metropolitan Museum's new costume center.

AP

First lady Michelle Obama, left, embraces Vogue editor Anna Wintour, at a dedication ceremony for the Anna Wintour Costume Center, Monday May 5, 2014, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

With a veritable who's who list of top designers on hand—Calvin Klein, Oscar de la Renta, Michael Kors, Donatella Versace, Carolina Herrera, Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren, Diane von Furstenberg and others—the first lady helped launch the museum's new $40 million Anna Wintour Costume Center, named for the editor of Vogue magazine. After her remarks, the designers and other guests toured the center's inaugural exhibit, which features the work of Charles James, an influential mid-20th century American couturier.

"I'm here today because of Anna," Mrs. Obama said. "I'm here because I'm so impressed by Anna's contributions not just to the fashion industry, but to the many causes she shares and cares about, particularly this great American museum.

"This center," she added, "is for anyone who is curious about fashion and how it impacts our culture and our history. And we know that that curiosity is out there."

The first lady, who wore a forest-green silk organza dress with three-quarter sleeves by Naeem Khan, one of her favorite designers, said the center would teach young people "that fashion isn't just about what we wear, but that fashion is also a business, it is an art, it is a career that involves science, engineering, accounting and so much more."

She also said she and Wintour, who has long been a key fundraiser for President Barack Obama, are working to bring students to the White House for a fashion workshop.

Others at the event included Tory Burch, Tommy Hilfiger, Zac Posen, Victoria Beckham, Alexander Wang, Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen of The Row, Reed Krakoff, Prabal Gurung and the Mulleavy sisters of Rodarte.

Mrs. Obama was not expected to attend the Met's annual Costume Institute gala Monday night, which typically attracts many celebrities and Hollywood A-listers.

Many of those guests were expected to try to channel the spirit of James, who died in 1978, into their outfits. Although his name is not well-known to the general public, he's revered by fashion insiders and current designers.

"He really was a designer's designer," Kors told The Associated Press as he awaited the beginning of the ceremony. "Not only all the architecture and the structure that he put into the clothes, but he was a modernist, too. He thought about how a woman would get into and out of her dress. Or stay warm. I think you look at his clothes and they really stand the test of time."

Posen said he had long been influenced by James, whose gowns, he said, exude "a deep love and passion for the sculpture of the human body."

Through complex, innovative work with fabric from the 1930s through the 1950s, James designed spectacular gowns that often resembled sculptures more than mere garments. His clients included Gypsy Rose Lee, Marlene Dietrich and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst Jr. None other than Christian Dior called him "the greatest talent of my generation."

The new Met show, "Charles James: Beyond Fashion," emphasizes technology. In a large ground-floor gallery, animated videos illustrate how each gown was constructed, from the original piece of fabric to the intricate completed garment. The gowns stand individually on pedestals to display a 360-degree view.

A 1938 black gown in silk faille, one of the first strapless gowns to be made in the 1930s, is called the "Umbrella" evening dress because the folds of its skirt, structured with silk-encased "ribs," resemble a folded umbrella.

A 1932 knee-length black dress is called the "Taxi Dress" because, James used to say, it was so easy to put on you could do it in a taxi—it was basically an early wrap dress. A 1933 black satin cocktail dress features an early use of a zipper seam. A "Ribbon Dressing Gown" is made entirely of ribbons of different widths, in peach, gold, yellow and ivory silk satin. The shape of the gown is formed not with seams and darts, but merely by varying the width of the ribbons.

James even designed the first elegant down-filled puffer jacket. Only one of them was made, said curator Harold Koda, touring the exhibit with a reporter recently, and it was passed around among his fans and clients.

But James was most proud of his striking 1953 "Clover Dress" in white satin and black velvet, with a full, sculptured skirt formed with four distinct "lobes"—like a clover. The gown's wide skirt never touches the ground—it is meant to lift up on the dance floor and create a gliding effect. Met curators commissioned a full recreation of the dress so that they could better understand how it moved and what it was like to wear.

"Look at that," remarked Posen as he examined the gown on Monday. "You can't even see the seam on that velvet! It's amazing."

One room of the exhibit is devoted not to gowns but to biographical items—such as hats, which were James' earliest designs (he started as a milliner in the 1920s), as well as prototypes for jewelry and typewritten notes that display his rather mercurial and demanding work style. One note lists celebrities James hadn't dressed, but wanted to, including rockers Mick Jagger—whom he calls "a sexy bastard"—as well as David Bowie and Lou Reed.

James was born in England, but came to the United States at age 18, first to Chicago. He later centered his business in New York, catering to well-known socialites of the day.

San Francisco mayor wants George Lucas museum

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee isn't about to lose a museum to be filled with George Lucas' lifetime art collection and movie memorabilia to another city.

The San Francisco mayor has given his staff until the end of May to come up with a list of places—both private and public—to present the "Star Wars" creator as possible locations in the city for the museum.

Lee said in a statement that he is well aware that San Francisco is in competition with another city. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel in April gave orders to a dozen civic leaders, telling them to find a place in that city for Lucas' interactive museum and collection. This is a one-time opportunity for San Francisco, Lee said.

"I will not let go easily of such a significant private investment by one of the world's most prominent filmmakers," Lee said.

Raised in Modesto, California, Lucas has said he doesn't have enough wall space at his 6,000-acre (2,428-hectare) Skywalker Ranch in Marin County, California, and he intends to invest up to $300 million of his money for the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum with another $400 million endowment upon his death.

Earlier this year, the Presidio Trust rejected Lucas' proposal to open the museum on park land at the base of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, which then offered him another location near the home of Lucasfilm's special-effects, game unit and corporate offices. Lucas is considering that offer.

Yet Chicago is considered a front runner for the display of Lucas' collection in part because he is married to Chicago businesswoman Mellody Hobson.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Police: Singer McCreery victim of home invasion

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Police say country music singer Scotty McCreery was the victim of an early morning home invasion near the campus of North Carolina State University, where he is a student. Raleigh Police spokesman Jim Sughrue says officers were called shortly before 2 a.m. Monday to an apartment about a mile from campus. Three suspects armed with guns are reported to have taken wallets, cash and electronic items. Police say the 20-year-old McCreery was among the victims. No one was injured. A native of nearby Garner, McCreery won TV's "American Idol" in 2011 and was named best new artist at the Academy of Country Music Awards the next year. In addition to being a recording star and a pitchman for Bojangles' Chicken 'n Biscuits, McCreery is wrapping up his sophomore year of college.

Kurt Cobain memorial park benches up for auction

ABERDEEN, Washington (AP)—Two benches that became an unofficial memorial to Kurt Cobain after the grunge rock singer killed himself 20 years ago are up for sale.

The benches sat in a Seattle park near Cobain's home and were covered with messages from fans that were written or carved on the wooden slats. KXRO reports the slats on the Viretta Park benches were replaced with new wood in 2008, but the old slats were saved from the landfill. Now, the old marked-up slats are fixed to new frames, and the Cobain memorial benches are for sale at a Tacoma auction house, Hamilton's Antique & Estate Auctions.

Poland philharmonic worker convicted of 2 murders

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A court in western Poland has convicted a former concert hall stagehand and sentenced him to life in prison for the double homicide of a woman harpist and a male security guard, in a crime that has shocked the country. The 30-year-old man—identified only as Michal M., in line with Poland's privacy laws—was convicted in Jelenia Gora over the killings in the town in March 2013. The victims were found dead inside the building of the Lower Silesia Philharmonic, where the man was employed. The 60-year-old guard was found near the building's entrance and the 27-year-old harpist in the guest room. She had travelled to the western town to play one concert. Poland does not have the death penalty. The verdict is subject to appeal.

Miranda Lambert leads CMT nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Thanks to her friends in country music, Miranda Lambert leads the Country Music Television nominations by pairing with her husband Blake Shelton, her girl group Pistol Annies and good friend Keith Urban. She's up for two individual awards for her video "Automatic," two for collaborating with the Annies on Shelton's song "Boys 'Round Here" and two more for singing with Urban on his song, "We Were Us." Lambert will be hard to beat this year, with three videos in the top category of Video of the Year and two in the Collaborative Video of the Year category. Luke Bryan and Florida Georgia Line have five nominations each, and Urban and Taylor Swift are tied with four nominations. Voting begins Monday at CMT.com and continues until June 1. The awards show will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 4.

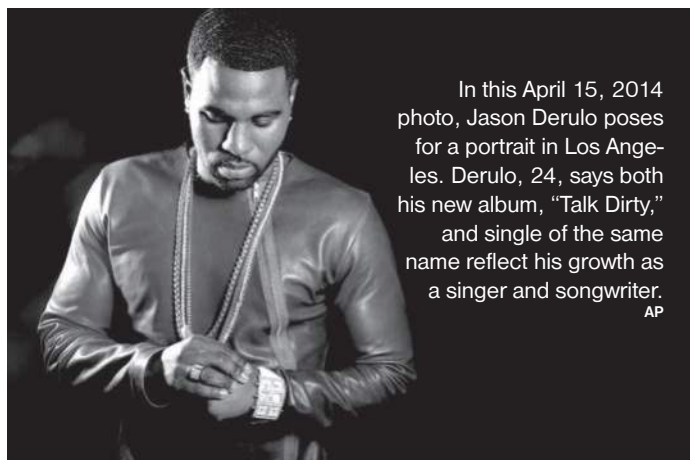
Singer Jason Derulo talks 'Dirty'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Derulo knows his recent hit, "Talk Dirty," is risque, but he's not too worried about it.

"I try to be conscious of offending anybody, but not that much," he said. "I really just try to do my thing and of course there is going to be backlash on every song that I do, so I don't worry myself too much on that. People saying things like `objectifying women.' I'm like, `What are you even talking about?'"

"Talk Dirty" has dominated pop radio, and the song has peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. It has sold 3.2 million tracks and features lyrics like "but your booty don't need explaining" and "first-class seat on my lap girl."

"I wasn't surprised that it would hit mainstream. I think in 2014 things, you know, are getting more and more free (and) liberal," he said. "I hear a lot worse."



In this April 15, 2014 photo, Jason Derulo poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. Derulo, 24, says both his new album, "Talk Dirty," and single of the same name reflect his growth as a singer and songwriter. AP

The smash is from Derulo's third album of the same name; it debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last month. The album was released internationally last September under the title "Tattoos," but the renamed American version features some new tracks.

Derulo, 24, says both his new album and single reflect his growth as a singer and songwriter.

"I'm comfortable with talking about what my life is and things that I go through," said Derulo, whose hits include "Whatcha Say" and "In My Head."

"This album is a direct representation of who I am as a person and how I speak," he added. "If I was talking to my best friend, you know, this is how I would explain it."

The album is Derulo's first to feature guest stars, and hip-hop acts are a strong part of the pop singer's project. Snoop Dogg, 2 Chainz, Pitbull, Tyga and Kid Ink make appearances.

Derulo, who is finding more success on the urban charts thanks to "Talk Dirty," says he started musically in the hip-hop scene.

"Most people don't know my background, but when I first started writing songs for other people it was for hip-hop artists," said Derulo, who co-wrote Birdman's "Bossy" and songs for Diddy that didn't make his album.

"The world knew me as a pop artist when I first came out (in music), which was cool, you know. I think I'm the first black male artist to actually come out as a pop artist," he added.

Coldplay dedicates song to Jagger at NYC concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Coldplay dedicated its slow tempo tune "Fix You" to Mick Jagger at a concert in New York City.

Chris Martin told the crowd Monday before singing the encouraging song about recovering, "It's for Mick Jagger."

Jagger's longtime girlfriend, fashion designer L'Wren Scott, committed suicide in March. A memorial was held in New York last week.

Martin doesn't quite have Jagger's moves, but the singer danced wildly onstage with his arms swinging as he sang tunes from the band's catalog, including songs from their new album "Ghost Stories," out May 19.

He played the piano and guitar throughout the hour-long set at the Beacon Theatre, performing well-known hits like "Speed of Sound," "Clocks," and "Viva la Vida" as colorful laser lights beamed and white stars hung from the ceiling above the stage. Confetti burst from the sides of the stage after they performed the dance-flavored tunes "Every Teardrop Is a Waterfall" and "A Sky Full of Stars."

Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow, who married in 2003, announced they were separating in March. While singing the song "Magic"—which features lyrics like "No I don't ... want anybody else than you"—one girl yelled: "Hang in there, Chris!"

The British foursome closed the show with "True Love," which Martin asked the crowd not to film and post on YouTube.

"(This) is the best song off our new album that no one has ever heard yet," he said. "Sometimes you have to keep these things to yourself."

He made a heart symbol with his hands after performing the tune, which included the lyrics, "Once upon a time I was yours, you were mine."

"Ghost Stories," the Grammy-winning group's sixth album, features production work from Paul Epworth, best known for producing and co-writing "Rolling In the Deep" and other tracks on Adele's colossal "21" album.

Fox orders 'Gotham' with McKenzie, Pinkett Smith

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox says it's ordering a series that delves into the early career of future "Batman" police commissioner James Gordon.

Producer Warner Bros. Television said Monday that the show called "Gotham" also will include untold tales of DC Comics villains and introduce a new character, Fish Mooney.

Jada Pinkett Smith will star as Mooney, with Ben McKenzie playing Gordon during his years as a detective.

Other cast members include Donal Logue as detective Harvey Bullock and David Mazouz as young Bruce Wayne, the future Batman.

An air date hasn't been announced, but a Warner Bros. spokesman says "Gotham" is planned for the 2014-15 season.

Settlement reached in guardianship of Ariel Winter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Modern Family" actress Ariel Winter will keep living with her adult sister after an agreement was reached Monday with the mother of Winter in a long-running guardianship dispute.

The agreement was reached just before a trial was set to begin on who would care for the 16-year-old actress.

Winter's mother Chrisoula Workman agreed to drop her objections to the guardianship if her daughter could watch a video montage of family photos before court adjourned.

Superior Court Judge Daniel Murphy agreed, and Winter and her sister Shanelle Gray sat in court and dabbed their eyes with a tissues as photos of their childhood played. Winter left court without speaking, but Murphy said it would be up to her to decide whether she would visit with her mother.

Winter has been living with Gray since 2012, when a temporary guardianship was established amid allegations that Workman was subjecting her daughter to physical and emotional abuse.

Another judge previously said an initial report by child protective services found evidence of emotional abuse, but claims of physical abuse were deemed inconclusive. Subsequent reports have not been described in court.

"I have never abused my daughter," Workman reiterated Monday.

Winter's father will have control of the actress' finances and will have to make reports to the court. Murphy said he would retain jurisdiction over the actress and her care until she turns 18.

After the proceedings, Gray and Workman issued a joint statement saying, "The family has moved beyond the conflict."

The statement said they were working toward reconciliation and thanked well-wishers.

Several supporters of Chrisoula Workman who attended the proceedings applauded the settlement announcement.

Winter, who has been acting since age 7, plays Alex Dunphy on the popular and critically acclaimed ABC series. She also has appeared in movies such as "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang."

Winter's brother, actor Jimmy Workman, had asked that the courtroom be closed while the video montage was played, but Murphy refused. Jimmy Workman, who played Pugsley Addams in "The Addams Family" films, excused himself from the courtroom at one point and wept after Murphy formally granted Gray guardianship of his sister.

Guardianship cases in California are public record. Gray's attorneys requested the case and its proceedings be sealed, but a judge has refused. The case was filed under Ariel's birth name, Ariel Workman.

Judge sentences 2 Chainz to drug diversion program

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper 2 Chainz has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance in a case filed after his arrest at Los Angeles International Airport.

District attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says the rapper, whose real name is Tauheed Epps, was sentenced Monday to an 18-month drug diversion program, and a felony drug possession charge was dropped.

Robison says the misdemeanor charge will be dropped if Epps successfully completes the program.

The 36-year-old rapper was arrested in June after airport officials reported finding ingredients for the cough-syrup-based concoction known as "sizzurp" in his checked baggage.

A call to Epps' attorney Leonard Levine was not immediately returned.

The Grammy-nominated rapper is best known for his hits "Birthday Song," "I'm Different" and "Feds Watching."

'Twerking' isn't dangerous, just the latest dance fad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm the happily married mother of two teenage boys. The other day I overheard my older son (age 17) talking with a friend about "twerking." I have never heard of it and now I'm worried. Is twerking a drug term? Is it similar to "tripping," "getting high" or "catfishing"?

My 17-year-old is supposed to go to Princeton next year on a sports scholarship, and I'm afraid "twerking" will derail him from his charted path. Thank you for any advice you may have.

TROUBLED MOM IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR MOM: Don't panic. "Tripping" and "getting high," as you already know, refer to altered states of consciousness as the result of using drugs. "Catfishing" is something else. It's pretending to be someone you aren't, creating a false identity on social media, usually to pursue a deceptive online romance.

The "twerking" your son was referring to is a dance move recently made famous by Miley Cyrus—in which the dancer (usually female) gyrates in a provocative, semi-squatting position that involves thrusting hip movements.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are not big fans of his best friend's wife. "Aracely" is extremely ill-mannered. She never says thank you, didn't even write thank-you notes for their wedding and baby showers, and when we're at a restaurant will loudly announce that the food was "disgusting."

Aracely claims our baby "cries too much." She arrived at my son's second birthday party with a hangover and so much more. She claims she doesn't observe our "Southern ways" because she comes from South America and has been in the United States for only eight years.

We keep our interactions with her limited, but do not cut her off completely because my husband values his friendship with her husband. I told my husband I'm considering giving her an etiquette book, but he said it would be rude. I disagree. I think it would nullify Aracely's argument that she doesn't understand our "Southern" manners. Do you agree that it would be rude?

MANNERED SOUTHERN GAL

DEAR SOUTHERN GAL: Sorry, but I do agree, because the gift would be given with malicious intent, and I'm pretty sure that while Aracely lacks polish, she isn't stupid.

Her problem isn't that she doesn't understand good manners because she's from South America. I have met individuals from South America who are educated, cultured and whose manners are refined. Obviously, Aracely does not come from this kind of background.

ONLY if you could pull it off without sounding catty, the next time she hauls out the excuse for her deplorable manners, you might "offer" to buy her an etiquette book "so she can learn the ways of her adopted country"—but don't expect her to take you up on it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Would it be appropriate to send my future mother-in-law a Mother's Day card? I feel it would be a nice gesture to help start the relationship between us.

NICK IN OMAHA

DEAR NICK: I concur. In fact, I suspect it will melt her heart to know you feel that way about her, even before you marry her daughter.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHY DIDN'T YOU SIGN UP TO PLAY BASEBALL LIKE THE REST OF THE BOYS? DON'T YOU LIKE SPORTS?
I DUNNO. I'D JUST RATHER RUN AROUND.
I HATE ALL THE RULES AND ORGANIZATION AND TEAMS AND RANKS IN SPORTS.
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS YELLING AT YOU, TELLING YOU WHERE TO BE, WHAT TO DO, AND WHEN TO DO IT.
I FIGURE WHEN I WANT THAT, I'LL JOIN THE ARMY AND AT LEAST GET PAID.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

"PONIES OF FIRE"!! GET YOUR COPY!!
LET ME SEE!
The ponies tore through Claytonland, leaving wedgies and noogies in their wake.
NOOO!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
THIS SEEMS KIND OF DARK.
RIGHT? KEEP READING!
"CLAYTON MOURNED HIS STRETCHED-OUT UNDERWEAR."
IN THE NEXT ISSUE, HE INVENTS UNDERPANTS SUSPENDERS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T DECIDE. DO I GO WITH THE ORANGE SWEATPANTS, BLACK SOCKS AND SUSPENDERS,...
OR THE WIFE-BEATER, DIRTY CUT-OFFS THAT SHOW MY BUTT CRACK AND PLATFORM SHOES?
YOU PUT WAY TOO MUCH THOUGHT INTO WHAT YOU WEAR TO WAL-MART.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

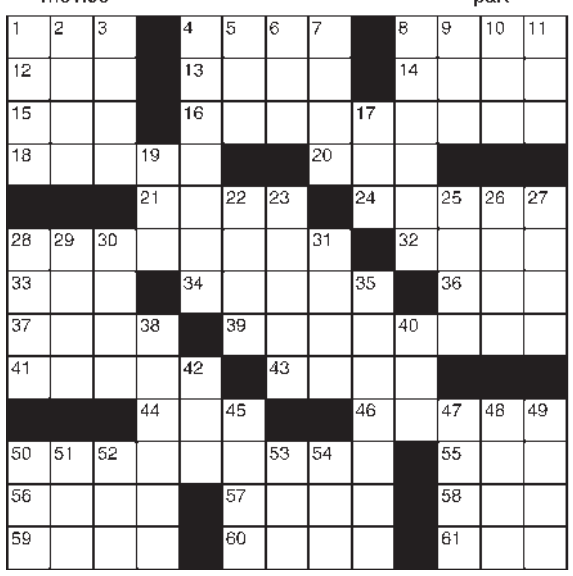
ACROSS
1 Rds.
4 Skateboarders' protection
8 Norway's patron saint
12 Illuminated
13 Last write-up
14 TV's Warrior Princess
15 Grant or Adams
16 Connotative meaning
18 Largest of the lower 48
20 Squeezing snake
21 Tara of "Sharknado"
24 Re ocean motion
28 School period
32 Volcanic outflow
33 Man-mouse link
34 Missile shelters
36 Chaney of old movies
37 Heap
39 Pasta wheat
41 Greeting
43 "Hot Shots! Part —"
44 Hooter
46 Construction fastener
50 Florida team
55 Chopper
56 Elevator name
57 Disco-style
58 Actress Farrow
59 Test the waters
60 Any day now
61 Score units (Abbr.)

DOWN
1 Bedframe piece
2 Fourth dimension
3 Charon's river
4 Dominate
5 Honest politician
6 Clouded
7 Impale
8 Beefy soup type
9 Island ornament
10 Mandela's org.
11 Scale members
17 "Kidding!"
19 Exist
22 Inflammation suffix
23 Took out of context?
25 Mustachioed surrealist
26 Shakespeare's water
27 Turner or Del Rey
28 Former frosh
29 Pennsylvania port
30 Shoppers' mecca
31 Where all roads lead
35 Becomes disillusioned with
38 Precocious Plaza resident
40 61, in 31-Down
42 Have
45 Firewood
47 Temptress
48 Way out
49 Afternoon gatherings
50 Piglet's mama
51 Greek vowel
52 Central
53 Old card game
54 Id counterpart

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	D	A	M	■	A	T	O	P	■	P	H	I
P	O	L	O	■	V	E	N	I	■	R	A	G
T	R	I	P	L	E	S	E	C	■	O	R	E
■	■	■	P	A	R	T	■	A	S	S	F	T
B	A	S	E	D	■	■	T	R	E	E	■	■
A	B	E	T	■	H	E	A	D	A	C	H	E
N	I	C	■	S	A	M	M	Y	■	U	A	R
D	E	T	R	I	T	U	S	■	S	T	I	R
■	■	A	I	D	S	■	■	B	E	E	R	S
B	A	R	G	E	■	A	L	I	E	■	■	■
I	C	I	■	B	I	S	E	C	T	I	O	N
B	H	A	■	A	S	I	A	■	H	A	V	E
B	E	N	■	R	A	I	D	■	E	M	I	T

Yesterday's answer 5-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexander Ludwig, 22; Breckin Meyer, 40; Traci Lords, 46; Amy Heckerling, 60

Happy Birthday: Your attitude will change as the year unfolds. Don't rely on intuition when facts will help you avoid making mistakes. Emotions are likely to take over regarding health, family and financial matters, but making clear and logical choices will be required if you want to improve your life. Make changes based on long-term results. Your numbers are 4, 16, 20, 27, 31, 38, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Start anew by making wise choices. Get back into shape. Exercise and a healthy diet will lead to the look you want. If you look good, you'll feel good, and the confidence you project will help you reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think before sharing your thoughts or offering constructive criticism. Emotions will be easily set off if you aren't careful how you handle sensitive situations. Composure coupled with positive thoughts will improve your day as well as your relationships with others. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Getting involved in events or activities that allow you to interact and show others what you've got to offer will help you get ahead and make new allies. Show off your skills and offer your services and suggestions. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't fight the inevitable. Go with the flow and make the most of what you have to work with. Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change those around you. Positive support will earn far more respect and recognition then criticism. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Engage in events that offer knowledge, education or interesting facts about people and places. Short trips will spark your imagination and help you discover talents you didn't know you had. Enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a moment to go over any concerns or issues you have before taking the plunge and getting involved in something that can be costly emotionally, financially or physically. Networking functions will expand your interests and your circle of friends. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let anyone bring you down. Do what suits you and put more time into personal improvements. Nurturing a relationship that means a lot to you will ease your stress and help you feel secure and confident moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take on a challenge. Focus on competitive activities that will keep you occupied. Someone you are close to will cause you grief if you get into a debate. Don't jeopardize your reputation by getting involved in a no-win situation. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Search as you may for the right information, you will be led astray. Concentrate on home, family and adding to your personal comfort and convenience. Romance will improve your love life. Go over your assets and make minor adjustments. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick close to home and work on self-improvement and nurturing important relationships. Delays and problems will surface while traveling or discussing a situation with opposing individuals. Avoid dealing with authority figures or institutions. Stick to simple alternatives in order to keep the peace. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A job change or looking into an alternate way to make your money stretch will help you budget your personal affairs and ease your stress. Put romance at the top of your list and do something that will be sure to please someone you love. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you want something, go after it. Taking a proactive approach to health, wealth and legal concerns will help put matters behind you, allowing you to move forward and set new goals. Money will come to you through an unusual source. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, willful and imaginative. You are goal-oriented and steadfast. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	9							
6		3						
	2		4		1			
		7		3		4		
			2			6	5	
		1						2
			9	6		2		7
				5				9
					3	8	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	9	4	1	5	3	8	7
1	5	3	2	8	7	9	6	4
8	7	4	6	9	3	1	5	2
7	4	1	8	3	6	5	2	9
5	9	8	1	7	2	4	3	6
3	2	6	5	4	9	7	1	8
4	3	2	9	5	8	6	7	1
9	8	5	7	6	1	2	4	3
6	1	7	3	2	4	8	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LEARNING TO CROCHET — Solution: 9 letters

S	M	A	R	E	B	I	F	S	R	E	G	N	I	F
D	E	L	P	S	P	I	K	E	A	S	S	I	Z	E
N	A	U	O	P	T	R	E	B	L	E	D	O	L	L
A	S	M	Q	O	A	Y	K	L	U	B	P	I	R	G
R	U	I	M	I	P	R	S	H	C	T	I	T	S	N
T	R	N	E	P	N	S	E	N	R	I	N	G	S	I
S	E	U	L	R	A	H	U	L	I	L	E	(E)	T	S
B	A	M	B	O	O	T	C	P	C	E	(B)	T	E	I
E	D	D	U	J	T	C	T	E	E	(U)	K	L	B	W
N	O	N	O	E	H	I	H	E	(T)	R	D	S	O	E
D	I	U	D	C	N	R	R	H	R	E	F	L	N	A
S	L	O	O	T	E	O	E	A	E	N	L	I	E	V
L	I	R	E	L	W	H	A	N	K	A	S	G	N	E
I	E	X	U	W	O	O	D	D	H	G	A	U	G	E
P	S	R	O	S	S	I	C	S	T	R	I	P	E	S

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Aluminum, Apparel, Bamboo, Bone, Bulky, Circular, Doilies, Doll, Double, Ends, Fiber, Fingers, Gauge, Grip, Hands, Hank, Loops, Measure, Motif, Needles, Patterns, Project, Rings, Round, Row, Ruler, Scissors, Shallow, Single, Size, Skeins, Slip, Spike, Steel, Stitch, Strands, Stripes, Superfine, Techniques, Tex, Thread, Tools, Treble, Tube, Weave, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Album

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

R.E.A.L. International Corporation is looking for 4 Carpenters and 4 Mason. Email resume to: remypamintuan@gmail.com

(1) Accountant. B.S. Accounting Graduate. 3-5 years experience in Accounting field. Must have working knowledge on Accounting Softwares. $5.55/hour. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

(1) Jewelry Appraiser. Must have 4 to 5 years experience in jewelry appraisal, honest and trustworthy.

(1) Administrative Officer – Must have 3-5 years experience as an administrative assistant plus 3-4 years experience as an administrative officer. Must have experience in pawnshop industry. Applicant must also have knowledge of computer software such as Peachtree Accounting, Microsoft Excel and Word, for occupation revolves around the handling of information and assignments through the use of these softwares. Must know how to read reports and financial statements. Must also know how to prepare CW-1 applications, taxes, licenses and permits. Must have reliable transportation and valid driver's license. Applicants must mail resume with valid identifications, police clearance and previous employment certifications to PLATINUM INC. PMB 326 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is currently seeking
(1) AUDIT CLERK
Interested applicants must e-mail a resume to hrd3@joeten.com
Closing date: May 23, 2014

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) CARPENTER
(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- With 4 to 5 years experience
If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001
Tel: 285-5354

Saipan City Taxi Association, Inc.
Job Vacancy Annoucement
15 – Taxi Drivers. Salary Rate: $5.55/hr.
At least 3 years of taxi driving experience in the CNMI. Must be a holder of a valid CNMI Driver's License, CNMI Taxi Driver's License, and a CNMI Taxi Bureau Identification Card. Current Police Clearance, Traffic Clearance and Traffic History. Willing to work flexible hours.
Interested applicants may send resume to PO Box 505846 Saipan, MP 96950. Please send your resume no later than May 13, 2014.

JOSEPH C. REYES dba:
Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

Maintenance Worker (1)
Qualifications:
- At least High School graduate or equivalent with 3 years experience required.
- Must know how to do plumbing, mechanical, electrical, carpentry, masonry work.
- Must know how to operate different kinds of machines and equipments.
- Must be able to work as full time with flexible working hours and during nights or weekends.

Applicants may submit resume to Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital's office in Garapan.
Phone 233-5368.

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio...etc
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

Advance Carrier Inc.
is currently seeking for
(1) ACCOUNTANT
Interested applicants must e-mail a resume to hrd3@joeten.com
Closing date: May 9, 2014

Chinese Goods Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement
- **(4) Cook**
(minimum of 2 yearsexperience, knowledge in Chinese Cuisine, flexible work hours/schedule)
- **(1) Dance Instructor**
(with 2 years experience)
Closing Date: May 9, 2014
Please mail resume to P. O. Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) MASTER RUM DISTILLER
Must have 2 to 4 year experience, must be knowledgeable in the field of rum spirit distilling, including but not limited to , operating a column still, operating a batch still, fermentation methodology for rum mashing, aging and flavoring of both silver and aged rum. Must be able to drive, manual transmission and able to communicate (write and speak) in English. Salary $7.95 -$10.95 per hour.

(1)ASSISTANCE RUM DISTILLER
Must have 1 to 2 year experience, must be knowledgeable in the field of rum spirit distilling, including but not limited to , operating a column still, operating a batch still, fermentation methodology for rum mashing, aging and flavoring of both silver and aged rum. Must be able to drive, manual transmission and able to communicate (write and speak) in English. Salary $5.95 -$7.95per hour.

(1) MASTER RICE WINE FERMENTER
Must have 2 to 4 year experience, must be knowledgeable in the field rice wine fermentation. Able to make its own rice yeast blocks for the fermentation process. Able to produce both traditional rice wine and flavored rice wine. Must be able to drive, manual transmission and able to communicate (write and speak) in English. Salary $7.95 -$10.95 per hour.

Qualified US applicant can email resume to ric@pacificdistiller.com or mail to Pacific Distiller P.O. Box 502429 CK, Saipan MP 96950.

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

SAFETY & SECURITY SUPERVISOR (1)
LEAD SAFETY & SECURITY SUPERVISOR (1)

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
Police Clearance & Certification required with application
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is a leading wholesale & distribution company.
We are looking for an experienced, qualified U.S. worker, for the position of

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- This is a company management position that is hands-on. The position will involve supervision of a busy warehousing and delivery team with responsibility for all inbound and outbound shipments.
- Emphasis will be on employee safety, customer service, product and facility security, stock rotation and damage control.
- The successful applicant should have a history of progressive work-related experience. High school graduate minimum. Some tertiary education a plus.
- Must be a team player and able to communicate at all levels, both written and orally.
- The successful applicant will be result oriented and must be well organized, honest, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- Computer experience necessary, ideally with Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word.
- Should have forklift operation experience and certification.
- The successful applicant will be required to provide a police and traffic clearance. Must have a valid drivers license. Pre-employment drug test required.
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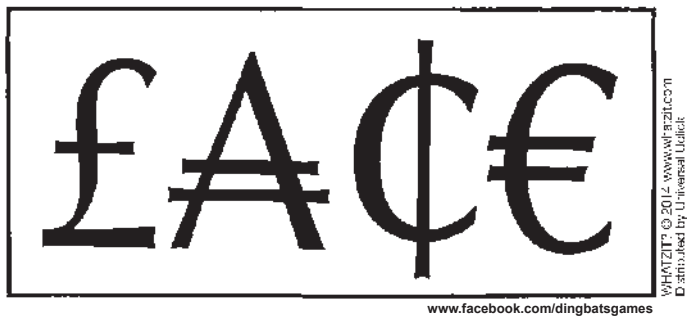

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Wizards take 1-0 lead with 102-96 win at Indiana

AP

Washington Wizards' Marcin Gortat (4) is defended by Indiana Pacers' Paul George (24) during the first quarter of game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series in Indianapolis, Monday, May 5, 2014.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Washington keeps finding ways to break through old, stubborn barriers.

Even in the unlikeliest place of all—Indiana.

Bradley Beal scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, Trevor Ariza added 22 and the Wizards held off the Pacers with a stout defense over the final 7 1/2 minutes Monday night to get a 102-96 win in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It was Washington's first second-round win in 32 years.

"We know it's a tough building to play in. We haven't won here in a while," Ariza said after the Wizards snapped a 12-game losing streak in Indy. "Why wouldn't this be the best time to come here and get a win—in the playoffs?"

The Wizards know there is a lot more work to do in this best-of-seven series.

Game 2 is Wednesday in Indianapolis.

So far, though, things have gone well for the upstart Wizards.

After clinching their first playoff berth since 2008, the Wizards have advanced to the second round for the first time since 2005, won at Indiana for the first time since April 18, 2007, and have their first second-round win since April 28, 1982. Washington has opened these playoffs with four straight road wins and put the pressure right back on the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

It doesn't get better than that for a young team that beat Chicago 4-1 in the opening round.

"The way I think about it, I'm 20 years old, I'm playing in the playoffs, something I've always dreamed of. Why not embrace it?" Beal said. "Why not accept the challenge and have fun with it? That's all I'm doing—having fun."

For the Pacers, it was another kick in the pants.

After salvaging their season with two straight wins to beat Atlanta in seven games, Indiana lost Game 1 for the second straight series and for many of the same reasons.

They were outrebounded 53-36 and were outscored 19-5 on second-chance points. They got beat outside as Washington made a franchise playoff-record 10 3-pointers with Ariza going 6 of 6. They got no points and no rebounds from 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert, who has looked nothing like the All-Star he was during the first half of the season.

And when they were desperately trying to rally in the fourth quarter, Indiana went 7 minutes without a basket.

Things got so frustrating that even the emotional Lance Stephenson lost his cool and snapped at coach Frank Vogel when he was yanked with 1 minute to play in the third quarter. Vogel said he took Stephenson out because he didn't want him playing 48 minutes. Stephenson said he was mostly mad at himself.

"I waited too late," Stephenson said. "Third quarter was too late to turn (it) up. I mean we need to come out first quarter and turn (it) up and get everybody going so the second half we could already have that pace."

Paul George and George Hill scored 18 points each to lead the Pacers, though half of Hill's points came on three 3s in the final minute when it was too late to come back. David West added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The Wizards trailed once all game, 31-30, and retook the lead on the ensuing possession.

But Washington won this one in large part because it beat Indiana at its own game.

Marcin Gortat had 15 rebounds, six on the offensive end where Washington held a 17-6 advantage. The defense limited Indiana to 40.7 percent shooting and never allowed them to get closer than six points until the final minute of the game.

By then it was too late.

Washington jumped to an 8-0 lead and led 28-15 lead at the end of the first quarter.

After the Pacers charged back to take the lead, the Wizards closed the half with a decisive 17-6 run to make it 56-43.

Washington took its biggest lead of the game, 68-52, midway through the third quarter with the Pacers in full catch-up mode. Indiana got within six late in the third, within seven early in the fourth and within five when Hill hit a 3 with 23.6 seconds to go.

That was as close the Pacers got.

"We won one game here in Indiana, but we still have to get three more," Beal said. "We have to be more desperate each and every game."

Clippers 122, Thunder 105

In Oklahoma City, Chris Paul and the Los Angeles Clippers showed what they can do when their minds are on basketball.

Paul made a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored 32 points to help the Clippers beat the Oklahoma City in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal.

The Clippers acknowledged that the racial comments by owner Donald Sterling that got him permanently banned from the league were a distraction during their first-round series against Golden State. Once they put the initial shock behind them, they beat the Warriors and carried their momentum into Game 1 against the Thunder. Los Angeles shot 55 percent from the field and made 15 of 29 3-point attempts.

Paul, who had never made more than five 3-pointers in a game, also had 10 assists.

"When somebody's got it going like that, you just try to stay out of the way as much as possible, but also help keep that fire going," Clippers forward Blake Griffin said.

Though Paul is a career 36 percent 3-point shooter, he doesn't usually shoot them so often. Once he started hitting them, he became increasingly aggressive. He made 8 of 9 for the night.

"I came over here early and got in a lot of shots, so I think that had a lot to do with it, too," Paul said.

Oklahoma City didn't anticipate Paul taking on the scoring load for Los Angeles, but he took advantage of good screens and knocked down the shots. The Thunder felt they defended him relatively well.

"I thought on a lot of those 3s, especially early in the game, we had a hand in his face and a hand in his shots," Thunder guard Thabo Sefolosha said. "So we did a decent job, but those shots went in and that boosted their whole team."

Griffin scored 23 points, Jamal Crawford had 17 and J.J. Redick added 12 for the Clippers.

Russell Westbrook scored 29 points, Kevin Durant had 25 and Serge Ibaka added 12 for the Thunder, who suffered their worst home loss since moving to Oklahoma City.

"We have to get more physical," Durant said. "I'm not talking about hard fouls, I'm talking about jamming the lane, fighting through screens and not letting guys run free. We just have to be more physical."

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Oklahoma City.

"We just understand that we don't go into Game 2 with a 17-point lead," Paul said. "You know, you've just got to come back and be hungry and not be satisfied with one."

Both teams were coming off Game 7 wins in the first round on Saturday night, but only the Thunder looked weary. Oklahoma City opened by taking a 16-10 lead, but the Clippers responded with a 24-6 run. Paul hit five 3-pointers in the first quarter, matching his career high for 3s in a playoff game in the first 12 minutes. The Clippers shot 67 percent in the first quarter to take a 39-25 lead.

Los Angeles extended its lead to 24 points in the second quarter and took a 69-52 halftime lead with Paul getting 22 points and six assists.

Durant and Westbrook scored 16 points each in the first half, but the Thunder committed 11 turnovers before halftime.

A quick 3-pointer and a pull-up jumper by Paul pushed the Clippers' lead to 78-56 in the opening minutes of the third quarter. The Clippers reached 100 points with just over a minute left in the period and led 104-78 heading into the fourth quarter.

The score that matters to the Thunder is 1-0. They were behind 2-1 and 3-2 against Memphis in the first round and rallied to win the series.

"You know, we've been there before," Sefolosha said. "You know, it's never easy, so at the same time it's the first to four wins, and we're down one. So it's not the end of the world, we've just got to go back and see what we can do for the next game."

76ers guard Michael Carter-Williams wins Rookie of Year award

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Carter-Williams has something to show for being a bright spot in a dismal season for the Philadelphia 76ers.

Carter-Williams won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award on Monday after becoming only the third player since 1950-51 to lead all rookies in scoring (16.7), rebounding (6.3) and assists (6.2). Oscar Robertson (1960-61) and Alvan Adams (1975-76) were the others.

Despite the performance of their dynamic guard, the Sixers were awful this season. They were 19-73 and tied an NBA record by losing 26 straight games.

"I'd definitely trade this award to be in the playoffs in a second," Carter-Williams said. "Coaches tell me to watch the playoffs to look at how different the game is and I do see it. It's a whole different season. This game is about winning. I hope I set a positive example about leading your team in a good way no matter what. I hope guys that come in know the core of this team takes things seriously and we want to build something special."

Carter-Williams received 104 of a possible 124 first-place votes. The Orlando Magic's Victor Oladipo finished second and Trey Burke of the Utah Jazz was third.

"Michael made an immediate impact on the court this season, but his dedication, professionalism and contributions to both the organization and the Philadelphia community make him all the more deserving of this award," Sixers owner Josh Harris said in a statement. "This is an incredibly proud moment for the 76ers and one we are thrilled to share with him, the city and our fans."

Allen Iverson is the only other player in Sixers history to win the award. The 11th overall pick from Syracuse in last year's draft, Carter-Williams is the first player picked 10th or lower to win since Mark Jackson did it in 1987 for New York.

"Michael performed and represented the Sixers organization this past season in a manner befitting of the 2013-14 NBA Rookie of the Year," said co-managing owner David Blitzer. "He never stopped working from the moment he burst onto the national scene in our home opener through the final horn at last game of the season, and we are proud to congratulate him on this well-deserved award."

Carter-Williams had a spectacular debut, posting 22 points, 12 assists and nine steals to lead the Sixers to a stunning 114-110 victory over the two-time defending champion Miami Heat. He was the second rookie after Shaquille O'Neill to be the Eastern Conference Player of the Week in his first week in the NBA.

"By opening night, it was clear to us that Michael belonged," Sixers President Sam Hinkie said. "This award marks a lifetime of hard work. ... We congratulate him on this unique achievement and look forward to helping him put in the work necessary to garner even greater success in the future."

First-year coach Brett Brown had enough confidence in Carter-Williams to give him the responsibility of leading the team on the court. They traded away All-Star point guard Jrue Holiday to clear the way for Carter-Williams.

With an eye toward the future, the Sixers traded Evan Turner, Spencer Hawes and Lavoy Allen in February. They have a 19.9 percent chance at getting the No. 1 pick in this year's draft and are also owed New Orleans' lottery pick—unless the Pelicans win a top-3 pick. With possibly two first-round selections, Carter-Williams and 2013 lottery pick Nerlens Noel returning from a knee injury, the Sixers could be a contender soon.

"When I first got here, I really didn't know what to expect," Carter-Williams said. "I am not a person that trusts a lot of people. My circle is really close, especially when it comes to basketball, because everyone has an opinion. But I have a lot of trust in coach Brown."

AL-leading Tigers top Astros, 6th straight win

DETROIT (AP)—Max Scherzer allowed just three hits and struck out nine batters over eight innings, leading the Detroit Tigers past the Houston Astros 2-0 Monday for their season-high sixth straight victory.

Rajai Davis broke a scoreless tie with an RBI single in the seventh and Victor Martinez hit a solo homer in the eighth. Catcher Alex Avila threw out two runners in the late innings for the Tigers, who have the best record in the AL.

Houston, which has the worst record in the majors, has lost three in a row.

Scherzer (4-1) earned his fourth straight win.

Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his sixth save in eight chances.

Jarred Cosart (1-3) allowed an unearned run and four hits in seven innings.

Twins 1, Indians 0, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Eduardo Escobar homered to lead off the 10th inning against Cleveland closer John Axford, giving the Twins a win.

Escobar, who entered as a pinch-hitter in the seventh, connected on a 1-0 pitch from Axford (0-3), driving it over the wall in right for his first homer since June 20 and fourth of his career in 344 at-bats.

Caleb Thielbar (2-0) pitched a perfect ninth and Glen Perkins struck out two in the 10th for his eighth save.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Stefen Romero hit his first major league home run to break a deadlock in the fifth inning as the Mariners beat the Athletics for their third straight victory and eighth in 10 games.

Chris Young (2-0) allowed two hits over six strong innings to win his second straight start.

The right-hander faced the minimum through three and didn't allow a hit until Jed Lowrie's one-out single in the fourth. Brandon Moss hit a tying two-run homer two batters later.

Scott Kazmir (4-1), off to the best start in his career, was tagged for eight hits and four runs in six innings.

Angels 4, Yankees 1

In Anaheim, California, the Angels scored three runs off five straight walks in the eighth inning after Jered Weaver escaped a based-loaded jam with no outs in the top half as Los Angeles beat the Yankees.

Yankees relievers Shawn Kelley (0-2), Matt Thornton and Preston Claiborne walked six overall in the eighth, the most walks in an inning by New York since 1990.

Weaver (3-2) allowed a run and six hits in eight innings, struck out seven and walked one.

Weaver bounded off the mound pumping his fist and shouting in excitement after getting Derek Jeter to ground into an inning-ending double play in the eighth.

Blue Jays 3, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Jose Reyes hit a leadoff homer and J.A. Happ allowed three hits over five innings as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

Facing his former team, Happ (1-0) walked four and pitched out of trouble often in his first start of the season. The lefthander was filling in for injured righty Brendan Morrow. Four relievers finished off the seven-hitter.

Kyle Kendrick (0-3) lost his eighth straight decision, dating to last season. He gave up three runs and seven hits in seven innings.

The Phillies failed to go two games above .500 for the first time since Oct. 1, 2012. They are 0-4 in those situations this season.

Cardinals 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Matt Carpenter's two-run double in the fifth inning helped carry the St. Louis Cardinals past the slumping Atlanta Braves, who shook up their lineup but still lost their seventh in a row.

Desperate for more offense, Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez batted pitcher Aaron Harang eighth and put second baseman Ramiro Pena in the ninth spot. Pena had two hits, including a seventh-inning homer that brought the Braves within a run, but they couldn't overcome a 4-0 deficit.

Taking advantage of shaky defense, Carpenter doubled in two runs and Matt Holiday followed with a run-scoring single. Peter Bourjos had an RBI single in the sixth to extend St. Louis' lead.

Shelby Miller (4-2) got the win and Trevor Rosenthal earned his ninth save. Harang (3-3) took the loss.

Marlins 4, Mets 3

In Miami, Casey McGehee hit a sharp grounder that caromed into right field off the back of reliever Gonzalez Germen's foot, allowing the winning run to score, as the Miami Marlins rallied late from a three-run deficit to beat the New York Mets.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a tying double in the eighth off Daisuke Matsuzaka, who failed to retire any of the five batters he faced in relief of Jonathon Niese. Giancarlo Stanton had an RBI single and the Marlins scored another run on shortstop Omar Quintanilla's fielding error in the eighth.

Christian Yelich led off the ninth with a single off Scott Rice (0-1). He advanced to second on Ed Lucas' sacrifice. Germen intentionally walked Giancarlo Stanton before McGehee got his RBI single.

Marlins closer Steve Cishek (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Nationals 4, Dodgers 0

In Washington, Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and—thanks to an odd-moving storm that produced an interminable rain delay—the Washington Nationals didn't finish off the Los Angeles Dodgers until some six hours later on Tuesday morning, gaining sole possession of first place in the NL East.

Jordan Zimmerman pitched four shutout innings before the game was halted, and five relievers threw an inning apiece after play resumed. In between, there was a delay of 3 hours, 17 minutes while a narrow, cigar-shaped storm took its time soaking D.C. and not much else.

As it was, Aaron Barrett (2-0) got the win, Zack Greinke (5-1) got a hard-luck first loss of the season and Danny Espinosa added a two-run homer in the eighth.

Giants 11, Pirates 10, 13 innings

In Pittsburgh, a throwing error by pitcher Jared Hughes on a sacrifice bunt by reliever Jean Machi in the 13th allowed the San Francisco Giants to score the winning run and overcome a six-run deficit to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Hughes (1-1) came on to start the 13th. With one out, he walked Hunter Pence and hit Juan Perez with a pitch. Machi (5-0), in just the second plate appearance of his four-year career, then dropped down a bunt, which Hughes fielded and threw wildly past first base as Pence scored from second base.

Backup catcher Hector Sanchez had four hits and three RBIs in the Giants 20-hit attack, while Buster Posey, who got a day off from catching, had three hits, three runs scored and two RBIs.

Machi pitched two scoreless innings and Sergio Romo worked the 13th for his 10th save.

AP

Detroit Tigers' pitcher Max Scherzer throws against the Houston Astros in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Detroit Monday, May 5, 2014.

White Sox 3, Cubs 1, 12 innings

In Chicago, Marcus Semien hit a tiebreaking RBI double in a two-run 12th and Jose Quintana allowed one hit over seven innings, as the Chicago White Sox beat the Cubs.

Quintana and five relievers combined on a four-hitter, and the White Sox came away with the win after dropping four straight and six of seven to their crosstown rivals. The winning rally started when Alexei Ramirez singled off Justin Grimm with two out and stole second. Tyler Flowers walked, and Semien lined a 1-1 pitch over third baseman Mike Olt's head to make it 2-1.

Grimm (1-1) plunked pinch-hitter Paul Konerko on the left arm to load the bases and walked Alejandro De Aza to make it a two-run game.

Brewers 8, Diamondbacks 0

In Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez hit a home run and drove in three runs to lead the Milwaukee Brewers over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Martin Maldonado and Jean Segura also homered for Milwaukee, which had lost four of its last five entering the game. The Brewers still have the best record in baseball at 22-11.

Milwaukee remained the only team in baseball to not lose when scoring at least four runs, improving to 18-0 in those games. Matt Garza (2-3) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings for Milwaukee.

Mike Bolsinger (1-2) took the loss for the Diamondbacks after giving up four runs and seven hits in five innings.

Rockies 8, Rangers 2

In Denver, Troy Tulowitzki homered twice and Jordan Lyles pitched eight strong innings as the Colorado Rockies beat the Texas Rangers.

Nolan Arenado also homered to extend his hitting streak to 25 games. It is the longest in the majors this season.

Tulowitzki had his first multi-homer game of the season and the ninth of his career. He hit a two-run shot off Texas starter Martin Perez in the fifth and hit another two-run homer off reliever Shawn Tolleson to give Colorado a 7-1 lead in the seventh.

It was more than enough for Lyles (4-0), who came within three outs of the second complete game of his career.

Padres 6, Royals 5, 12 innings

In San Diego, Will Venable hit a two-run single in the 12th inning to give the San Diego Padres a win over the Kansas City Royals.

Venable singled off Tim Collins (0-2) and over the head of right fielder Lorenzo Cain to score Chris Denorfia with the tying run and Yonder Alonso with the winning run from second base.

Mike Moustakas hit an RBI single in the 12th off Tim Stauffer (1-0) to give the Royals a brief lead.

Jedd Gyorko's solo homer with one out in the ninth inning off Royals closer Greg Holland tied the game at 4. It was Holland's first blown save in eight chances.

Eric Hosmer homered and drove in three runs for Kansas City, which extended its season-high losing streak to five games despite a season-high 16 hits.

Woods says he's healing slowly from back surgery

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods described his recovery from back surgery as a "very slow process" that offered him no timetable on when he can return for a summer filled with big championships.

Woods already missed the Masters, choosing to have microdiscectomy surgery March 31 to relieve pain from a pinched nerve.

In a wide-ranging blog on his website Monday, Woods said he is still sore from the incision and his only contact with golf clubs is a few putts and chips that do not require him to rotate his back. He said tests showed no arthritic changes, which he attributed to being in good shape and strong in his legs and abdomen.

"I made the decision to have surgery because physically I just couldn't make a golf swing," Woods wrote. "The pretty much sums it up."

Though he is uncertain when he can even start hitting half-shots, Woods made it sound as though he would not be ready for the U.S. Open on June 12-15 at Pinehurst No. 2, the major championship course where he has the most experience.

"As I've said several times, I hope to be back sometime this summer, but I just don't know when," Woods said.

The one nonmajor that is important to him is the Quicken Loans National at Congressional, with a new title sponsor stepping in at a tournament that benefits his foundation.

"Whether I'm able to play or not, I'm going to be there to support it," Woods said.

That tournament is two weeks after the U.S. Open and three weeks before the British Open, with the PGA Championship, FedEx Cup playoffs and Ryder Cup filling out a busy lineup of big-time golf.

"You can understand why I want to hurry up and get better," Woods said.

Woods, who last played March 9 at Doral, said all he could do was to follow a strength program, listen to the doctors, chart his progress and wait.

"I haven't used a sand wedge yet," he said. "I've done putting and chip-and-runs using the same length of motion. I haven't really rotated yet. As far as taking a full swing, I have conference calls with my doctors every couple of weeks to see how my progress is and just kind of chart it out from there. Basically, you just follow a program. It's tedious because it's little rehab stuff, but you still have to do it.

Pistorius neighbor says shooting accidental

AP

Oscar Pistorius arrives at the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday, May 5, 2014.

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Using witness accounts of a panicked nighttime phone call from Oscar Pistorius begging for help and his desperate pleas for Reeva Steenkamp to stay alive, the defense at his murder trial tried to reinforce its case Monday that the double-amputee Olympian fatally shot his girlfriend in a tragic error of judgment.

Johan Stander and his daughter Carice Viljoen, neighbors and friends of Pistorius, testified that they were at the runner's villa soon after the shooting on Feb. 14, 2013 and that Pistorius was praying, trying to help Steenkamp breathe and urging her to live.

Viljoen testified that Pistorius was saying to Steenkamp as she lay on the floor with multiple gunshot wounds: "Stay with me, my love, stay with me."

The world-famous disabled runner had shot four times through a toilet cubicle door with his 9 mm pistol minutes earlier, hitting Steenkamp in the hip, arm and head. He claims he thought she was a dangerous intruder in the cubicle in his darkened bathroom.

Prosecutors maintain Pistorius, 27, is lying about the perceived trespasser, and his story is designed to cover up that he killed the 29-year-old model intentionally in the midst of a heated argument. The first amputee to run at the Olympics in 2012, Pistorius faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of a premeditated murder charge.

The testimonies from the neighbors began the seventh week of proceedings in the globally televised trial, which resumed after a two-week recess.

Stander testified that Pistorius phoned him at around 3:19 a.m.—about two minutes after the shooting. Pistorius told him he had thought Steenkamp was an intruder and shot her, Stander testified, and Stander and his daughter went to Pistorius' house after the world-famous runner pleaded for him to come and help.

"I saw the truth there that morning. I saw it and I feel it," Stander testified, saying he believed that the shooting was accidental because of Pistorius' desperation when they found him carrying a bloodied Steenkamp downstairs from the upstairs bathroom. Pistorius was "really crying. He was in pain," Stander said.

Stander's own voice shook at one point and he became emotional as he described Pistorius' state.

"He was torn apart, broken, desperate, pleading," Stander said. "It's difficult really to describe."

The defense was trying to underline its scenario that Pistorius was emotionally distressed after shooting Steenkamp by mistake. Pistorius' lawyers were also trying to regain some momentum after chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel put Pistorius under intense pressure during the runner's own testimony, which appeared to show some inconsistencies in his story.

The prosecution has preferred to focus on events before the killing—and not Pistorius' demeanor afterward—to try and show that his version is a fabrication, including that he never attempted to locate Steenkamp despite knowing she was awake before walking to the bathroom on his stumps and firing through the toilet door.

Pistorius slumped forward in the Pretoria courtroom Monday with his head in his hands as details of what may have been Steenkamp's last moments alive were discussed.

Cross-examining Stander, Nel questioned if he was a good friend of Pistorius and therefore trying to "assist" the defense. Stander said he had known Pistorius since 2009 and looked after his home and dogs when he was away. Nel asked if the friendship led him to back Pistorius' story. Stander said he also knew Steenkamp.

"I'm here to give the truth," Stander said. "And I think I've given the truth, what I saw that morning."

Nel's manner in cross-examining both Stander and Viljoen was relatively subdued in contrast to his aggressive questioning during his five-day questioning of Pistorius, and of two expert witnesses for the defense.

Stander earlier recounted the telephone call from Pistorius that woke him up in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's Day.

"He (Pistorius) said on the call, `Johan, please, please, please come to my house. Please. I shot Reeva. I thought she was an intruder. Please come quick,'" Stander said.

Viljoen testified that when they arrived at the house, Pistorius begged her to help him get Steenkamp into a car so they could take her to a hospital. Viljoen said she urged Pistorius to "just put her down" so they could try and stop the bleeding. As Viljoen spoke, her voice broke and she became tearful.

"I just saw blood everywhere," she said. Her father stepped outside to telephone an ambulance, Viljoen said, and she went upstairs to fetch towels to stop the bleeding. Pistorius was pleading for Steenkamp to stay alive, she said.

"He kept on egging Reeva to just stay with him," she testified.

LEINA

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Conover, North Carolina, from May 14 to 17.

In this year's regionals, Kim got off to a sluggish start, but zoomed to the lead after finishing strong in the opening round. The former CNMI junior golfer carded a 2-over 38 in the first nine hole of the par-72, 6,044-yard course, making six pars and three bogeys. She then redeemed herself on the back nine, firing a 3-under 33 that was highlighted by an eagle on the par-5, 455-yard No. 10 hole. Kim was the only player to make an eagle in the course in the first round and she completed the big turnaround by drilling birdies in three par-4 holes.

Last year's RMAC Rookie of the Year's score in the first round at Walnut was 10 shots better than the field average, according to the ThunderWolves website. Kim leads St. Edward's Taylor Moreno and Tarleton State's Jessica Pickwick, who had identical 74s in the opening round. Pickwick's teammate Isabell Jimenez Perea, St. Edward's Alyssa Smith, and California Baptist's Tina Yang are also tied for fourth to sixth place with similar scores of 75. Both Pickwick and Moreno are representing the Top 2 teams in the team standings, helping Kim gain a six-shot lead in the individual rankings.

Meanwhile, the second round of the regionals was played early this morning with Kim scheduled to tee off at 8:15am (around 1am Wednesday on Saipan). The third and final round is also set at the same time on Wednesday in Texas (Thursday on Saipan).

In last year's regionals, Kim registered 74s in the first two rounds before settling for an 83 in the third for a three-day total of 231. She was just behind by one stroke against Sonoma State's Spencer Heller and Grand Canyon's Charlotte Jaengkit.

DL Corp. caging eyes May 11 opening

The 3rd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League will open shop this Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Nine teams are entered in the third edition of the league with Docomo Pacific on the list and aiming to defend the title it won over San Antonio last year. Joining Docomo in the league are MDX/Pelicans, Island Manpower, Kixx Engine Oil Shockers, Hawaiian Rock, Pacman Team, I Love Saipan, and Saplan Boys.

Representatives of teams are requested to attend a meeting this Thursday at 6:30pm at the residence of league organizer Sonny Ebuen in Gualo Rai. Ebuen added that games in the DL caging will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday with the first match set for 6pm and the second at 8pm.

For more information, contact Ebuen at 483-8792. ***(PR)***

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lead. Matansa U15 Girls stayed in the match in the first 25 minutes of play after getting one goal each from Maile Aldrich and Lyka Sally. Howeover, Matansa U15 lost on its semis bid, as it failed to light up the board in the second half, while Tan Holdings got one goal from Rojas.

The victory against Matansa U15 was Tan Holdings U12's second, as the former eliminated Tan Holdings U15 in the opening round of the FA Challenge Cup late last month, also at Koblerville.

In the Matansa U12-Kanoa U12 playoff encounter, Kervin Ruziel Babauta and Glenn Basallo scored for the former to arrange a semis showdown against MP United U12.

MP United marched to the semifinals, following a 4-0 triumph over Kanoa U15 over at Pitch 1 in the second game of the weekend. Geon Ho Lee kicked off MP United's offense, two straight goals in a span of two minutes, while Rintaro Miyawaki and Daniele Colombo nailed one goal apiece.

Lee recorded his first goal in the 14th minute and got his second in the 16th, while Miyawaki made it a 3-0 advantage with his goal four minutes later. Colombo then registered MP United's lone goal in the second half, as he found the back of the net in the 42nd minute. MP United forced a quarterfinal match against Kanoa Girls U15 after beating Shirley's FC U12 last month.

Meanwhile, MP United U12's semis showdown against Matansa U12 will be played this Saturday at 1pm at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. The second semis match between Tan Holdings U12 and Paire U12 is set for 2:30pm, also at the Hopwood pitch.

YANKEES

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fifth inning, the Yankees scored three runs off Ben Flores' RBI single, a wild pitch, and error at second base for a 4-0 advantage. The first run came in the fourth inning with Greg Iskawa reaching home off a passed ball.

Threatened at the bottom of the sixth, the Yankees called third pitcher Dung Tenorio to replace second pitcher Manny Cabrera and the former halted the Northern Starz's rally with a strikeout and the inning ended after a fly out from Juan Iguel.

After the Northern Starz's run, the Yankees regained their composure quickly, scoring three runs in the next two innings to reclaim the driver's seat. Brian Camacho's single at the top of the seventh drove home Ben Flores, while Kapileo stole home for the Yankees' 6-4 advantage. The Yankees then made it a 7-4 lead at the top of the eighth with A.J. Lizama also hitting an RBI single.

Down by just three, the Northern Starz refused to give up and cut the deficit to two at the bottom of the eighth with Cedric Ada drilling a single and bringing Ben Lizama home. The Northern Starz had a chance to move closer with runners on third and two outs, but Ada was caught stealing second.

Despite the missed opportunity, the Northern Starz remained in contention when it shut out the Yankees at the top of the ninth. At the bottom the ninth, Tenorio walked leadoff batter Lamarc Iguel, who eventually made it to third off a Yankees error at shortstop and the former's wild pitch. E.J. Tenorio batted next for the Northern Starz and flied out, while Mike Iguel advanced to first off A.J. Lizama's fielding booboo. Lamarc Iguel and Jason Camacho, who pinched run for Mike Iguel, then got stuck at second and third after the Yankees secured the two needed outs.

After ousting the Northern Starz, the Yankees will face the winner of the Brewers-Fielders semis series in a best-of-five title showdown. The Brewers and Fielders, who slugged it out in the finals last season, played Game 1 of their semis tiff last Friday and results of the match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Thursday edition.

COPSSA Boys High School Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eucon International School's Allen Yu slips past Grace Christian Academy defenders for a reverse layup during the first quarter of their title game in the 2013-2014 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Girls Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Grace Christian Academy's Dong Ha Lee loses the ball after getting a foul from Eucon International School's Allen Yu, left.

Grace Christian Academy's Billy Hinson goes up for a fall-away jumper.

Grace Christian Academy's Khemner Sugue beats Eucon International School's Allen Yu, left, and teammate Winson Yu in the battle for the loose ball.

Grace Christian Academy's Karlo De Leon sneaks into the defense of Eucon International School.

Eucon International School's Jerry Wang muscles his way inside the paint against Grace Christian Academy's Dong Ha Lee.

Eucon International School's Wayne Li dribbles out of traffic.

Eucon International School's Jerry Wang, right, and Rafael Wang, left, shuts the door on Grace Christian Academy's Billy Hinson.

Eucon International School's Rafael Wang falls into Christian Academy's Winson Yu as they fight for ball possession.

Wizards take 1-0 lead with 102-96 win at Indiana
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AL-leading Tigers top Astros 2-0, 6th straight win
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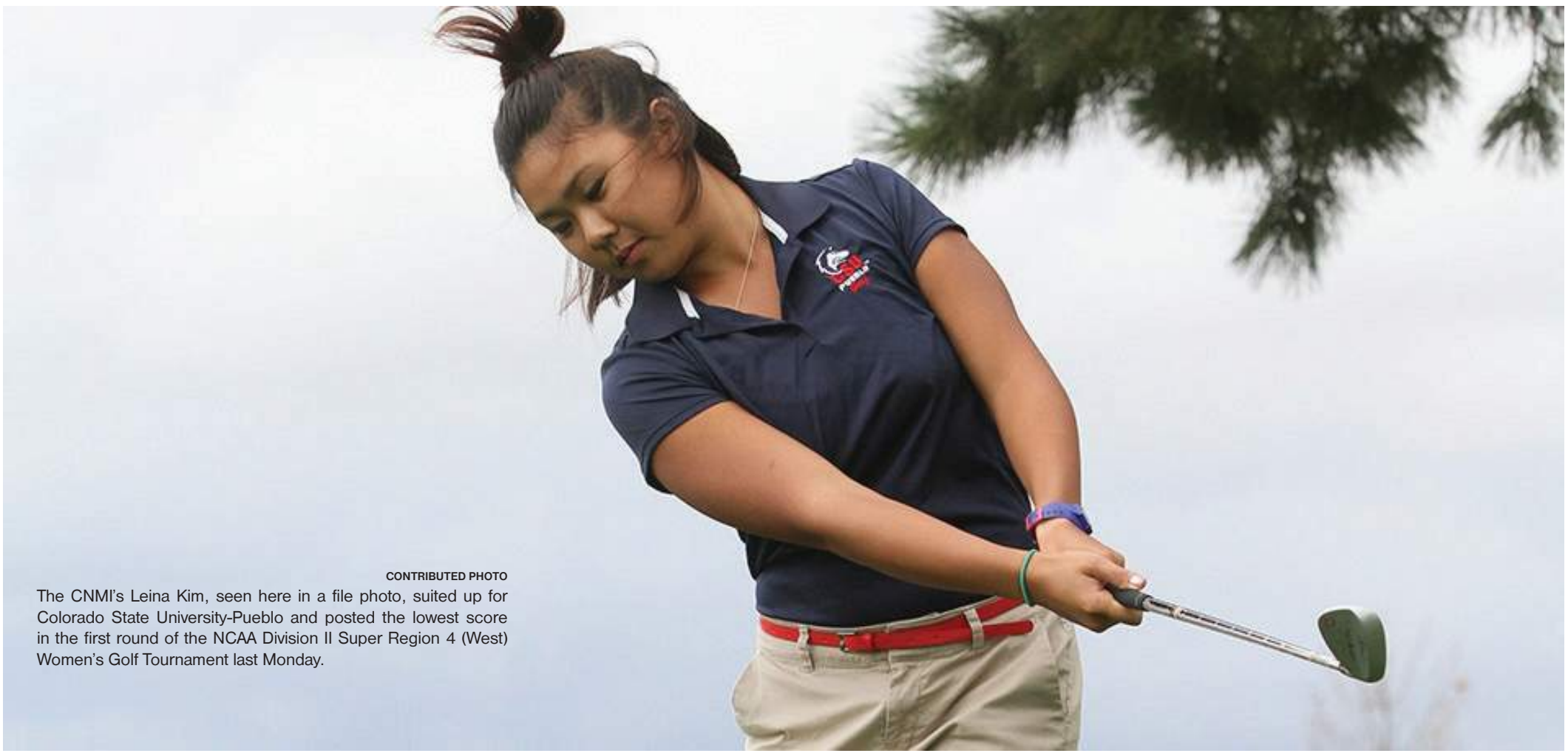
Leina leads in NCAA regionals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Leina Kim, seen here in a file photo, suited up for Colorado State University-Pueblo and posted the lowest score in the first round of the NCAA Division II Super Region 4 (West) Women's Golf Tournament last Monday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Leina Kim boosted her bid for a second straight appearance in the nationals after taking the upper hand in the first round of the NCAA Division II Super Region 4 (West) Women's Golf Tournament last Monday in Mansfield, Texas.

The Colorado State University-Pueblo sophomore shot a one-under 71 at the Walnut Creek Golf Club for a three-stroke lead over two others. According to the CSU ThunderWolves website, Kim is ahead in the 49-player field that includes a nine five-player team. The back-to-back Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Golfer of the Year awardee is the lone CSU bet and RMAC representative to the regionals. She was also RMAC's only entry to the regionals last season and finished in the Top 3 to make it to the NCAA Division II National Championships. Another Top 3 finish will ensure Kim a return trip to the nationals that will be held in

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Yankees get first finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Yankees are back in the finals after missing last year's championship series.

The Yankees punched the first finals berth in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League after completing a sweep of the Northern Starz with a 7-5 victory in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The 2012 champions put the needed defensive stops at the bottom of the ninth and last inning to eliminate the Northern Starz.

The Northern Starz had a strong chance of forcing a standoff in the last inning, as it had runners on third and second base with one out. However, the Yankees got the two quick outs to shut the door on the Northern Starz. Second baseman Kelvin Kapileo fielded a grounder from Jared Camacho and threw to first baseman Gary Cruz for the second out, while closer Franco Flores picked up a short shot from Ben Lizama and also threw to first base for the third out.

The Yankees had to lean on their defense in the closing innings after the Northern Starz managed to tie the match in the sixth inning. A four-run bottom of the sixth brought the Northern Starz back into the game after they failed to buy a single run in the first five innings. First baseman John Acosta blasted a two-run single, while Jason Camacho and Ben Lizama hit an RBI single and an RBI double, respectively, to keep the Northern Starz in the match. Earlier in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yankees catcher Pat Alepuyo waits for the pitch from the Northern Starz's Lamarc during the top of the eighth inning of Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

All-U12 semis affair in FA Challenge Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four U12 squads bagged semis seats in the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup after last Saturday's quarterfinal games at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Matansa and Paire's U12 teams notched the first two semis berths after downing separate foes in the 1pm games for the co-ed U12 and girls U15 competition. Matansa U12 dueled Kanoa U12 at Pitch 1 and cruised to a 3-0 win, while at Pitch 2, Paire also shut out Paire Girls U15, 8-0.

Paire drew two goals apiece from Jamin Elliot, Seung Woo Lee, and Blake Mister, while Kaden Church and Neil Brian Sagum chipped in one each to help the team advance to the Final Four round against Tan Holdings U12.

Tan Holdings played in the second game at Pitch 2 and edged Matansa U15 Girls, 4-2. Angelo Bergancia canned a pair of goals for Tan Holdings, while Thaiphi Austria and John Michael Rojas contributed one apiece.

Thaiphi scored first for Tan Holdings, while Bergancia drilled back-to-back goals in the first half to lift the team to a 3-2

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matansa and MP United players are seen here in a foot race during last year's title game in the FA Challenge Cup. The two teams will have an early rematch as they collide in the semifinals this Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.